

CUP FINALS ISSUE

Special features
and photos

SHOOT!

18p

**ARSENAL v
MAN.UTD.**

19th MAY,
1979



PAT RICE
(Arsenal captain)



MARTIN BUCHAN
(United captain)

HIBS v RANGERS



GEORGE STEWART
(Hibs captain)



DEREK JOHNSTONE
(Rangers captain)

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A 'football first' at both Wembley and Hampden

A PART from what happens following the kick-offs in the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley and the Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park, the teams are assured of the same entry in football's history books. By an amazing coincidence, both sets of finalists are meeting each other for

the very first time since the Cups were first played for in the 1870's.

Just one of the absorbing facts we reveal in an issue devoted mainly to coverage of two of the most enthralling F.A. Cup Finals to be staged in recent years...

David Gregory

EDITOR

Successive Appearances

MANCHESTER United is one of only six clubs to have played in the F.A. Cup Final in two successive seasons and lost both games. That was in 1957 and 1958. Others who have lost in successive seasons are Old Etonians 1875, 1876; Queen's Park (Glasgow) 1884, 1885; West Bromwich Albion 1886, 1887; Derby County 1898, 1899; Newcastle United 1905, 1906. United are, therefore the only club to have suffered this misfortune at Wembley.

Including only players who had already been capped at the time of their Cup Final appearance then United have fielded as many internationals in their seven Finals as Arsenal have done in nine Finals:—

Arsenal 22E 4S 41 5W 3Ei Total 38
Man. Utd. 17E 8S 71 2W 4Ei Total 38

In the above figures Johnny Carey has been counted only once (under Eire), but this Manchester United player did, of course, also play for N. Ireland, and if included twice this would give Manchester United the lead.

Manchester United have twice fielded a Cup Final team with as many as nine internationals. In 1962-63 the side that beat Leicester City 3-1 included Bill Foulkes, Bobby Charlton and Albert Quixall (England); Pat Crerand, David Herd and Denis Law (Scotland); Johnny Giles, Tony Dunne and Noel Cantwell (Eire). In 1976-77 their nine internationals were Alex Stepney, Brian Greenhoff, Stuart Pearson, Gordon Hill (England); Martin Buchan and Lou Macari (Scotland); Sammy McIlroy, David McCreery (sub) and Jimmy Nicholl (N. Ireland). In fact this side that beat



Liverpool 2-1 also included one other player who has since been capped for England — Steve Coppell.

Experienced

Arsenal's most experienced Cup Final player was their speedy England international outside-right, Joe Hulme. Known as the "Highbury Express" this player from Stafford, who joined Arsenal in 1926 from Blackburn Rovers, appeared for The Gunners in four Cup Finals — 1927, 1930, 1931 and 1936. He also appeared in a fifth Cup Final with Huddersfield Town in 1938.

Joe Hulme's record of five Wembley F.A. Cup Final appearances is shared by former Manchester United player Johnny Giles. The present Eire manager, however, made only one of those appearances with the United (in 1963). The other four were with Leeds United.



Hit for Six

Although Manchester United's four goals in the Final of 1948 (v. Blackpool) has been equalled in seven other Finals (most recently by Blackpool — beating Bolton 4-3 in 1953) it has only been exceeded in two Finals — Blackburn Rovers beat Sheffield Wednesday 6-1 in 1890, and Bury beating Derby County 6-0 in 1903.

Brothers

Both clubs have fielded a pair of brothers in an F.A. Cup Final. United, of course, had the brothers Brian and Jimmy Greenhoff in their victorious 1977 side, while Arsenal's brothers, Leslie and Denis Compton, appeared together in their victorious 1950 combination. Strangely enough the beaten side on each occasion was Liverpool.

Where's it gone? The coin flies skywards (left), before Arsenal beat Chesterfield 5-1 in the F.A. Cup in 1937.



The post-Munich Final 1958. Bobby Charlton is presented to the Duke of Edinburgh before Manchester United (right) lost 2-0 to Bolton.

Gunners' Strongest

Arsenal's strongest Cup Final team for internationals was their 1935-36 combination which beat Sheffield United 1-0. This included the following nine internationals: Joe Hulme, Eddie Hapgood, Cliff Bastin, George Male, Jack Crayston, Wilf Copping, Raymond Bowden and Ted Drake (England), and Alex James (Scotland).

This season either side will probably include at least a half dozen internationals.

Cup Copyrighted

After Manchester United had won the Cup in 1909 some well-wishers made a full-size replica of the trophy. This persuaded the F.A. to withdraw their Cup from competition and order a new one, the design of which was made copyright.

Misfortune

Manchester United first appeared in the F.A. Cup competition in 1889-90 when they were still known as Newton Heath.



However, they had the misfortune to be drawn against Preston North End, who had only a few months earlier completed the League and Cup "double". The newcomers were well beaten 6-1. As a matter of fact Newton Heath had previously entered the competition but had scratched at the last moment. They got their first win in the Cup the following season when they beat High Walton 2-0.

11-0 Win

Arsenal got off to a much better start in the F.A. Cup competition for in their earliest appearance, in October, 1889, when they were still known as Royal Arsenal, they beat Lyndhurst 11-0. Their first Cup-tie with a Football League club was in January, 1891, when they were beaten at home 2-1 by Derby County.

Losing Margins

While Arsenal have never lost an F.A. Cup Final by a margin of more than a single goal Manchester United were beaten 2-0 by Bolton Wanderers in 1958.

Complete F.A. Cup Final records in figures —

					1st half goals	2nd half goals	Total goals	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	F	A
Arsenal	9	4	0	5	3	1	3	5
	extra time							
Man. Utd.	7	4	0	3	3	3	8	6
							11	9

Record to Equal

The men who have appeared in most F.A. Cup Finals with Manchester United are Billy Foulkes and Bobby Charlton who each appeared in three Finals — 1957, 1958 and 1963. United players who could possibly equal three Cup Final appearances for the club this season are Brian Greenhoff, Martin Buchan, Steve Coppell, Sammy McIlroy, Lou Macari, Stuart Pearson and David McCreery.



Tom Parker clutches Arsenal's Cup in 1930.

Quickest Goal

The quickest goal scored against Manchester United in the F.A. Cup Final was that by Nat Lofthouse the Bolton Wanderers' centre-forward. Bolton won 2-0 in 1958 and Lofthouse got the first of his two goals in just under three minutes.

Training Precedent

Arsenal and Ipswich Town created a precedent last year when they trained at Wembley as part of their preparation for the F.A. Cup Final four days later.

Now Arsenal and Manchester United could repeat the practice before their meeting on Saturday.

Record Receipts

F.A. Cup Final receipts create records year by year — and the meeting of Arsenal and Man. United will continue the pattern.

It's a far cry from the first recorded receipts of £442 for the Blackburn/Queen's Park Final at Kennington Oval in 1885.

By 1939 (when Portsmouth beat Wolves 4-1) the figure was £29,116.

The first post-War Final — Derby v. Charlton produced £45,000.

The six-figure mark was reached 20 years later, £109,691 being paid

at Everton's 3-2 win against Sheffield Wednesday, who were two goals ahead at one stage.

Scoring Tradition

It is extremely rare for the side to score first in the F.A. Cup Final to be defeated. In fact it has only happened six times in 34 post-War Finals. In their seven appearances it has never happened to Manchester United, but Arsenal suffered in this way in one of their nine Finals — in 1931-32. Then after Bob John had put them ahead in the 14th minute they were eventually beaten 2-1 by Newcastle United.

'Double' for Bailey?

Gary Bailey, Manchester United's brilliant goalkeeping prospect, has the chance of becoming the first player for ten years and only the eighth since the War to have made his Football League debut and collect an F.A. Cup winner's medal in the same season.

The last to do so was Tommy Booth (Manchester City) in 1969 and before that came Pat Crerand (Manchester United, 1963), Barry Stobart (Wolves, 1960), Stan Crowther (Aston Villa, 1957), Jack Dyson (Manchester City, 1956), Peter Goring (Arsenal, 1950) and John Anderson (Manchester United, 1948).



A jubilant Maurice Setters (left), Noel Cantwell (centre) and Pat Crerand after Manchester United's F.A. Cup Final defeat of Leicester in 1963.

Arsenal's road to Wembley . . .

Third Round (replay)	v. Sheffield Wednesday (a) 1-1 Sunderland
(2nd replay)	v. Sheffield Wednesday (h) 1-1 Brady
(3rd replay)	v. Sheffield Wednesday (at Leicester) 2-2 Brady, Sunderland
(4th replay)	v. Sheffield Wednesday (at Leicester) 3-3 Stapleton 2, Young
	v. Sheffield Wednesday (at Leicester) 2-0 Gating, Stapleton
Fourth Round	v. Notts County (h) 2-0 Young, Talbot
Fifth Round	v. Nottingham Forest (a) 1-0 Stapleton
Sixth Round (replay)	v. Southampton (a) 1-1 Price
Semi-Final	v. Southampton (h) 2-0 Sunderland 2
	v. Wolverhampton Wanderers (at Villa Park) 2-0 Stapleton, Sunderland

Manchester United's road to Wembley . . .

Third Round	v. Chelsea (h) 3-0 Coppell, Grimes, J. Greenhoff
Fourth Round (replay)	v. Fulham (a) 1-1 J. Greenhoff
(2nd replay)	v. Fulham (h) 1-0 J. Greenhoff
Fifth Round	v. Colchester United (a) 1-0 J. Greenhoff
Sixth Round (replay)	v. Tottenham Hotspur (a) 1-1 Thomas
Semi-Final	v. Tottenham Hotspur (h) 2-0 Jordan, McIlroy
(replay)	v. Liverpool (at Maine Road) 2-2 Jordan, B. Greenhoff
	v. Liverpool (at Goodison) 1-0 J. Greenhoff

Scottish Cup facts concerning Rangers and Hibs on page 38

BOTH clubs have included so many great players in their earlier Cup Final teams that we would need more than the whole of this issue to recall them all. But here are the captains of their winning teams.

Arsenal's Cup-Winning Captains

TOM PARKER: Here was a full-back with outstanding positional sense and his bald head always seemed to be in the right place at the crucial moment. He was one of Arsenal's most loyal servants, joining them from Southampton during season 1925-26 and remaining with them until 1933 when appointed manager of Norwich City. Playing in three Finals, Parker captained Arsenal's winning team against Huddersfield Town in 1930. In all he made 256 League appearances for The Gunners including one run of 155 consecutive games. Born Southampton. One England international.

ALEX JAMES: Reckoned to have been one of the all-time greats among inside-forwards "Wee Alex", with the long baggy pants flapping around his knees, was a genius at sending defences the wrong way. Indeed, he was recognised principally as a creator of openings rather than a goalscorer. In 231 League appearances for Arsenal he scored only 26 goals, but he had earlier scored a lot more goals for Raith Rovers and Preston North End. Even with Arsenal, however, where he was given the role of schemer, he popped in some crucial goals, including one which set them on the road to victory over Huddersfield Town in the 1930 Cup Final. Alex missed the 1932 Final through injury, but captained them to victory over Sheffield United in 1936. Born Glasgow. Eight Scotland internationals.

JOE MERCER: When this brilliant wing-half joined Arsenal from Everton in November 1946 he was suffering from a knee injury and it was thought that his career was almost at an end. After all, he had made his League debut with Everton more than 13 years earlier, but he still went on to make 247 League appearances for The Gunners and his career did not end until he broke a leg in April, 1954. By then he had been a first-class professional for over 22 years. He actually captained Arsenal in two Cup Finals, the winning one being that against Liverpool in 1950. Born Ellesmere Port. Eight England internationals.

FRANK McLINTOCK: This Scot had the distinction of skipping Arsenal's League and Cup "double" winning team in 1970-71 when he was elected "Footballer of the Year". Joined Arsenal from Leicester City for an £80,000 fee in October, 1964, and captained them in two Cup Finals, winning against Liverpool in 1970-71. He had previously appeared on the losing side in two F.A. Cup Finals with Leicester City. A really intelligent defender, he made 322 (+ 2 sub) League appearances for Arsenal before his transfer to Q.P.R. in 1973. Born Glasgow. Nine Scotland internationals.

United's Cup-Winning Captains

CHARLIE ROBERTS: This centre-half was the king-pin of the Manchester United side for nine seasons. He joined them from Grimsby Town in 1904 and remained until moving to Oldham Athletic in 1913. An outspoken man, especially on players' rights, there is no doubt that he would have played more often for England but for his activities as chairman of the newly formed Players' Union. He made 291 League appearances for United and captained them to victory in the 1909 Final against Bristol City. Born Darlington. Three England internationals.

JOHNNY CAREY: This outstanding footballer cost United only £250 when signed from St. James Gate, Dublin, in 1937. Never has any club had a greater bargain. Johnny Carey played in almost every position, including goal, during 16 years with United before joining Blackburn Rovers as manager in 1953. Undoubtedly one of the brainiest footballers ever seen he was deservedly selected as captain of the Rest of Europe team v. Britain in 1947. He made 306 League appearances for United and captained them to victory over Blackpool in the 1948 Cup Final. Born Dublin. 29 Eire internationals and seven N. Ireland internationals.

NOEL CANTWELL: Another chairman of the Players' Union and was in his time one of football's highest priced full-backs. Joined United from West Ham in November, 1960, for a £25,000 fee and enhanced his reputation by skipping the Cup-winning team of 1963. Cantwell was a full-back with a flair for attack and was chosen as centre-forward for Eire on more than one occasion. Began with Cork Athletic before moving to West Ham in 1952. Made 123 League appearances for the United. Born Cork. 36 Eire internationals.

MARTIN BUCHAN: Has so far captained United in two Finals, being on the winning side against Liverpool in 1977. A brilliant defender, he gained a Scottish Cup Winner's medal for Aberdeen against Celtic in 1970. Moved to Old Trafford in March, 1972, for around £125,000. Has played well over 200 League games for United.

He made his debut for United against Tottenham on March 4th, 1972, but was on the losing side, Spurs winning 2-0 at White Hart Lane.

Buchan has represented Scotland on 33 occasions, including all three in last year's World Cup Finals in Argentina.



THE MASTERMINDS

It is something of a football irony that Terry Neill and Dave Sexton, the Finalists' managers, are probably the only two men in England who view soccer's annual Wembley showpiece through cold, analytical eyes.

It may come as something of a surprise to discover that managers, unlike the rest of the nation, see the Cup Final as a match rather than a great and colourful occasion. In fact both Neill and Sexton emphasise this aspect of their job.

Neill's Arsenal were favourites to win last season's Final against Ipswich. But the Suffolk side dominated a thrilling match and deserved more than their ultimate 1-0 triumph.

Sexton, while leading Chelsea to hitherto unknown heights in the early 1970's, saw them back to twice equalise Leeds United goals in the 1970 Final, but had to go to Old Trafford for a replay before experiencing triumph. A 2-1 win. And he returned to Wembley two years later for a League Cup Final against Stoke City but again was frustrated, only this time more completely, Stoke winning 2-1.

Hardly surprising, then, that Neill and Sexton insist on keeping the whole matter low-key.

'Concentrate'

Neill explained: "My job, is to make sure that our players are allowed to concentrate on the game. I must shield players from pre-Final pressures.

"We know Manchester United well enough already. We have played them twice in the League this season. So as far as the game is concerned we will prepare for them as we would if they were visiting Highbury on May 12.

"I understand why people talk about the Cup Final as a complete occasion, but from where we are standing it is all about concentration, getting our basics right on the day, reaching our peak as a team and coming home with that trophy."

Last season's Final left some of Arsenal's players dazed and bewildered. Neill believes that setback will work in Arsenal's favour on May 12.

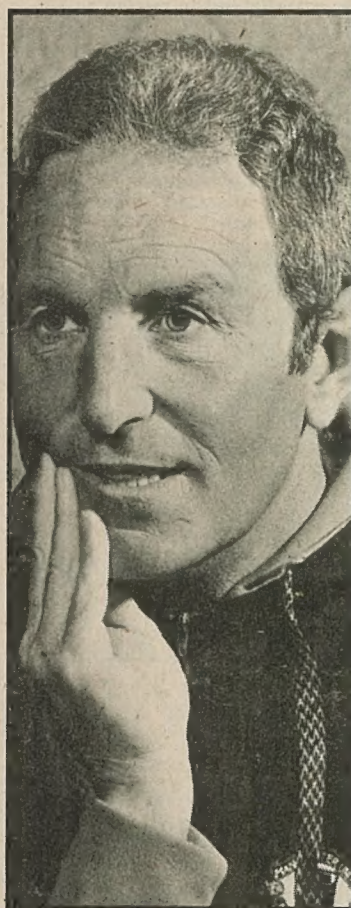
"Having gone through the whole programme only 12 months ago, we know what to expect and how to cope with it. Few of us will be surprised by anything that happens on the day. We will all be that little bit anxious before the match because this is a natural human reaction.

"I believe that once the game



'I must shield players from pre-Final pressures'

ARSENAL MANAGER
TERRY NEILL



'I prefer to play down such occasions'

MAN. UNITED MANAGER
DAVE SEXTON

begins, the players lose all their little nervous twinges immediately.

"I will make sure that the players are not over-exposed to the media to the extent where they become bogged down."

For Arsenal, Liam Brady and Brian Talbot hold the key. Brady limped out of the Ipswich Final a sad and disappointed figure while Talbot, then the powerhouse of the Ipswich midfield, heaved a massive sigh of relief to see him go. This season they combine their talents to threaten a Manchester United midfield with strong, ceaseless running and incisive, raking passes.

Big Willie Young, whose weak clearance set up Roger Osborne's winner in 1978, can make amends by keeping in check the rampaging, damaging penalty area work of fellow Scot Joe Jordan. And

Alan Sunderland, an ineffective winger clearly lacking match-fitness last time will this Final be one of two central strikers in his own right, replacing the injury-torn Malcolm Macdonald.

Dave Sexton has not enjoyed the easiest of relationships with Manchester United's success-spoiled fans since taking over from the dynamic Tommy Docherty at Old Trafford.

Although he is too nice a man to say so, he needs victory to smooth his future path towards greater things. When your club has achieved everything there is to achieve in football, all you can do is strive to emulate plus add some dash and style. That is Sexton's problem. Just equalling what his

predecessors have done.

On the subject of Wembley, Sexton pulls no punches: "Cup Finals are special games, but I have no intention of preparing for this match any differently to the way I would prepare for a League match against Arsenal.

"I always prefer to play down such occasions anyway, treat them in a matter-of-fact way as far as possible. I believe this is a help to the players insofar as if I behaved anxiously or out of character I might create some pre-match tension.

"When Chelsea reached the F.A. Cup Final in 1970 I found that with so many League games to play between finishing the Semi-Final and approaching the Final that it was not too difficult to just get on with the job and keep the players ticking over in the right frame of mind.

"That way they had no time to sit back and worry about the big one, the Final.

'Challenge'

"And, of course, in the past your season was virtually over if you were mid-table after Christmas. So if you reached the Cup Final, you were steadily building up for the one big game of your whole season.

"That's not the way things are today. If you have a number of League matches to play before the Final — and both we and Arsenal do — then you can climb the table to a position which now qualifies you for a place in Europe — a completely separate challenge.

"I've often heard people talking about the magic of the Final and the size of the actual occasion. But I find that we think and work towards one aim — winning the match.

"I agree that the day sometimes flies by too quickly; that you sit at home and wish you could do it all over again.

"We are armed with the confidence gained from beating the best team in Britain — Liverpool — in the Semi-Finals. But that's as far as it goes. We will give Arsenal the same respect on May 12."

With Sammy McIlroy beginning to display the great talents that have taken longer than expected to mature in midfield and with Micky Thomas a more consistent performer on the left wing than the talented but unpredictable Gordon Hill (now Derby County, of course). United have a squad that match Arsenal and makes for an even game.

With Joe Jordan v Willie Young; Frank Stapleton v Gordon McQueen and the very traditions that have taken these clubs to a total of 16 Cup Finals before May 12, everything points to the realisation of the dreams of Neill and Sexton — that the game will prove bigger than the occasion.

BIG MATCH CROSS TALK

between Arsenal midfielder Brian Talbot and Manchester United winger Steve Coppell



'With so many attacking players action is guaranteed'
BRIAN TALBOT

TALBOT: I don't think anyone will be suffering from nerves in this Cup Final, Steve — there are so many players on both sides who are used to the big occasion.

COPPELL: True, Brian. Though perhaps a couple of the younger players may feel jittery, and in that case, it's up to the older, more experienced men to help them out.

TALBOT: One thing seems to be guaranteed, and that is there will be plenty of action. Manchester United have at least six accepted attacking players, plus your two full-backs, who also like to go forward when possible. So do our full-backs, and we'll be counting on Liam Brady in midfield to promote some attacks, with Frank Stapleton active in the box.

COPPELL: I'm not forgetting you are a good "feed" for Liam Brady, and we are well aware you are a key contributor in Arsenal build-ups. You've mentioned the big occasion, and a man who has a reputation for being a big-match player is Lou Macari — he almost burned himself out in our Semi-Final replay with Liverpool.

TALBOT: There is a peculiar atmosphere about a Semi-Final. Wembley is so near, and yet so far away, and I recall we kept things very tight in the opening stages in our Semi against Wolves. We gradually wore them down, and once we had taken the lead, we were confident we would win. But that's the way we were in all our Cup-ties. Before a game, we just made up our minds we wouldn't be beaten, and this attitude carried us through to the Final.

COPPELL: My feeling following our drawn first Semi-Final against Liverpool was we had blown our chances. Then on the day of the replay, and during the game itself, the impression stayed with me we could beat them. We made a good start in the replay and in the opening 20 minutes missed our chances to go ahead, but we kept plugging away until Jimmy Greenhoff got the clincher.



The F.A. Cup '79

Arsenal 'keeper Pat Jennings safely collects from United's Lou Macari.

TALBOT: We'll be watching Jimmy at Wembley — he was always a fine player, and lately seems to have taken on a new lease of life. There can't be too many more similar occasions ahead for him, and he will be all out to make this visit to Wembley pay off. Of course, we won't be forgetting to pay special attention to you, Steve, and also Mike Thomas — he has given an extra dimension and more balance to United since he joined them.

COPPELL: I don't know about the extra dimension, but Mike has certainly given us the extra balance, playing as he is on the left flank. He didn't find it difficult to adjust to our style, as he is playing the same sort of game as he did at Wrexham. About Jimmy Greenhoff, there is a natural matchwinner, a man with fabulous vision, an old pro who knows all the answers, Brian, yet who is not really that old in years.

TALBOT: I'm looking forward to playing against Jimmy, and indeed I'm delighted to be back at Wembley a year after turning out there for Ipswich against Arsenal. Earlier

this season, I was all set to play against Carlisle for Ipswich in an F.A. Cup-tie that was postponed on account of the weather — I didn't play in it, but went to Arsenal.

COPPELL: Yes, if you had appeared against Carlisle, you would have been ineligible to play in Arsenal's Cup-ties, and missed a good game at Wembley! Though if our meeting is anything like our last League encounter, in which you beat us 2-0 at Old Trafford, it won't be very exciting.

TALBOT: I'm hoping the playing surface at Wembley is good enough to allow both teams to serve up the kind of good football they are capable of — and I'll get a winner's medal after being at High-bury for four months. At Ipswich, I waited ten years for a winning F.A. Cup medal.

COPPELL: I'm always wary about meeting a side at Wembley that has lost there in the previous Final. It happened we beat Liverpool after Southampton had defeated us there 12 months earlier. Against Southampton I remember we just didn't play, didn't get into the



'Last year's Wembley defeat will make Gunners more dangerous'
STEVE COPPELL

game — but this season, we have been a different side in the F.A. Cup, and tremendously motivated in it. As a contrast, some of our League games, half-a-dozen at least, must have been embarrassing to watch, as we were so much out of touch. Talking about motivation, Arsenal are bound to have it this year at Wembley, because they'll feel they have something to prove after losing to Ipswich in 1978.

TALBOT: Yes, I know Arsenal players feel they must show that their poor form at Wembley last year was not a true indication of their normal game. Of course, form in a League match gives no pointer as to what will happen at Wembley. Last season, Ipswich lost 6-1 to Aston Villa in the League, then went on to win at Wembley, a week later.

COPPELL: I'm just hoping we carry on with the momentum we showed against Liverpool in the Semi-Finals. In the League, it was different — after beating us 3-0 at Old Trafford on Boxing Day, I knew Liverpool would win the Championship, they were so good. But in the Cup, we hustled them and put them off their normal game. For example, we know Graeme Souness needs a little time to dwell on the ball to give of his best — so we didn't allow him to settle. I look forward to us being at our best at Wembley, Brian, and help to make this a game to remember.

TALBOT: Well, we'll do our best to co-operate in making it a match worth seeing, Steve, and I think the result will be very close. In your defence, there is Martin Buchan and Gordon McQueen, both men I respect. But I reckon we have the players who can find a way past them, and if we can score one goal, that could be enough to win the match. There will be plenty of men going forward, but the marking will be very tight. Both teams are well matched right through in ability, and if the players are on form, there should be a lot of entertainment for the fans.

We've started with the managers, and awarding points out of ten this is how we see the 1979 FA Cup Final taking shape.

HOW DO THE

ARSENAL

TERRY NEILL, MANAGER



A likeable Irishman who deserves great credit for bringing days of glory back to Highbury.

As a player he was influential with Arsenal and Northern Ireland, but his early management with Hull City and Tottenham didn't exactly set anyone alight.

His greatest strength is in knowing exactly what to leave to his coach Don Howe on the playing side. The blend appears to work almost perfectly.

RATING: 8

DON HOWE, COACH



Without doubt one of the leading coaches in the game. He is a pioneering thinker who has made several innovations in the game and is always ready to try out new ideas.

As someone who has played at the very highest level he commands the respect of everyone in the game and is constantly sought for advice.

If he has a failing it may be that his intense desire for everyone to give of their best all the time, might tend occasionally to frighten the odd player before a big occasion.

RATING: 9

PAT JENNINGS, GOALKEEPER



Still one of the best around despite that nightmare for Northern Ireland at Wembley. Along with Clemence and Shilton big Pat is always mentioned whenever talk turns to the best 'keepers in the country, and surely it was Tottenham's biggest mistake when they let him go.

Not likely to let much past him from long range his most serious threat could come from Joe Jordan's challenges for high balls in the six-yard box. The big man can shake any goalkeeper and he'll be out to get one over the Irishman.

RATING: 9

PAT RICE, RIGHT-BACK



One of the most underrated number two's in the game. To last ten years with any First Division club a man must have great calibre. Pat Rice has done it almost unnoticed yet there have been few blemishes on his game and he is rarely found wanting. He has learned to cut out the mistakes, to join the attack when it suits, to stay back when it is more apt, and amid all this has made himself into an exceptionally fine leader. His duel with Micky Thomas will be worth watching.

RATING: 8

DAVID O'LEARY, CENTRE-BACK



O'Leary is surely the quickest centre-half around and he's also among the most accurate when it comes to making a telling pass. His colossal presence in the Arsenal back-four will have to be at its most meaningful however, if he's to blunt the twin threat posed by Jordan and Jimmy Greenhoff. David was bitterly disappointed to miss out on a winners' medal when Ipswich ruined his Wembley day last season and he won't want a repeat.

RATING: 9

WILLIE YOUNG, SWEEPER



As much a giant in the Arsenal ranks as McQueen is in United's, Willie is the original folk hero with the North Bank. Lawrie McMenemy once said of him: "He seems to be made up of spare parts" and that may be true. Put together they make for a pretty effective player.

Not the most cultured player around Willie has made up for his deficiencies, which include an inability to turn quickly, with a boundless enthusiasm for the game which enables him to lift his performance.

RATING: 7

SAMMY NELSON, LEFT-BACK



Now that his shorts dropping episode has been cleared Sammy can contemplate 'dropping' Manchester United at Wembley instead and making up for last year's disappointment. Looking at the more important side of his character Sammy is a "sticker" who has had to make up for natural ability with more effort than a lot of players have to give to their games. His greatest contribution to the Final will be in keeping Stevie Coppell quiet.

RATING: 7

MAN. UNITED

DAVE SEXTON, MANAGER



After taking many knocks about the way his side was playing, in comparison to great United teams of the past, Sexton has given the best possible answer by guiding this side to Wembley. Even Martin Buchan admitted that United winning the Cup would not change the fact that this had been a disappointing season.

Some footballers need a good bawling out occasionally and Dave isn't the man to give them that which is why he leans heavily on Tommy Cavanagh on the coaching side.

RATING: 8

TOMMY CAVANAGH, COACH



An entirely different character, but then Tommy is different from anyone we know.

Larger than life itself he is an enormous enthusiast who kicks every ball of the match from the bench, except when he has to go racing on to the pitch in that famous jockey cap to treat an injured player.

Highly excitable Tommy makes a total contrast to his comparatively silent partner.

His ability to motivate cannot be underestimated especially on an occasion like this.

RATING: 7

GARY BAILEY, GOALKEEPER



What an unbelievable fairy story! Unheard of much before Christmas this son of a famous father has quickly established himself to ensure Dave Sexton can spend his next big cheque elsewhere. His inexperience could still be exposed at Wembley and he does occasionally mistime when to come out and when to stay on his line. Balancing that out he gets down to low shots with remarkable speed and lacks nothing in bravery.

RATING: 8

JIMMY NICHOLL, RIGHT-BACK



Made a great impact when he first came into the United side three or four years ago, and is coming back to his best after a lull.

Has looked particularly sharp, if at times a little over-zealous in his tackling, recently.

Has an important role to play in the Final because his bite in the tackle could destroy much of what Brady and Rix will be trying to achieve down the left hand side of the field.

RATING: 7

GORDON McQUEEN, CENTRE-BACK

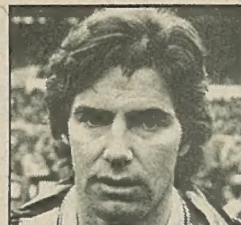


If either centre-half is to score at Wembley we'll bank on it being McQueen. He's done it there before with Scotland, he's also knocked in a few for Manchester United this season, especially in recent weeks with a boost in personal confidence, and there's no doubting the raw-boned Scot can be a match-winner.

Gordon relishes the big match atmosphere and he could terrorise the Arsenal defence with those massive jumps in the penalty-area.

RATING: 9

MARTIN BUCHAN, SWEEPER



Martin is perhaps the most accomplished defender ever to come out of Scotland.

An introverted lad at times he is nonetheless a deep thinker about the game and a highly intelligent individual who studies before he does anything — from passing out of defence, to deciding which way to cut the lawn. Always with plenty of time to spare (a sure sign of a good player) he too has a key role in trying to curb the speed of Sunderland and the power of Stapleton.

RATING: 9

ARTHUR ALBISTON, LEFT-BACK



Man of the match in the eyes of most judges when he helped United beat Liverpool in the Final two years ago, Arthur has quietly built on that performance since without winning many headlines.

He has gone the other way to Nelson concentrating more on his defensive duties (so much so he has yet to score his first goal for the club).

That he has done so commendably well is apparent from the inability of Stewart Houston to win back his place.

RATING: 7

RIVALS RATE?



**F.A.
Cup
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ARSENAL

BRIAN TALBOT, MIDFIELD



Could become the first man to win a Cup winners' medal one year and then go back twelve months later to help the beaten club record their own success. Has added zip and bite to the Gunners midfield and alongside the wiles of Brady and the positional awareness of Price has formed a highly-effective trio. To say he's still in the settling-in period Brian has done remarkably well and it should be worth watching him go next season.

RATING: 8

LIAM BRADY, MIDFIELD



The P.F.A. Player of the Year is determined to crown a fabulous season with a winners' medal. Never fit enough to stamp his unquestionable talents on last year's duel with Ipswich, Brady is eager to make United pay for that by showing everyone what he's really capable of. His probing runs and precision passes from both sides of the field can spread panic in the best defences.

RATING: 9 (he only fails to get the maximum because of his penchant for getting into trouble).

DAVID PRICE, MIDFIELD



When Brian Talbot arrived from Ipswich there were many critics who predicted plenty of Football Combination play for Price, but he set his jaw and gave an immediate reply with the winning goal against Liverpool and hasn't allowed himself to be shifted. His greatest asset is his ability to be in the right place at the right time. Most of his goals are scored from close range and his intuition gets him into scoring positions others don't spot.

RATING: 7

GRAHAM RIX, MIDFIELD



The frail, pencil-thin Rix has abundant finesse but is not always as engaged in a match as he might be. Strangely he grew in stature a little when Brady was out of the side recently giving rise to a feeling he responds better when he has the stage to himself. Certainly most players would suffer by comparison with the silky Brady and the Yorkshire lad is no exception. He has enough credentials of his own to make an impact but must make sure of involvement from the start.

RATING: 7

ALAN SUNDERLAND, STRIKER



At his best he has a spring in his step which takes him past most defences in a flash. And his finishing can be pretty deadly to follow. At his worst he can look disinterested — but fortunately for Arsenal he doesn't have too many days like that and surely on an occasion such as this there is no danger of complacency. His nimble footwork is his greatest asset and he'll need to be at his most agile with Martin Buchan snapping at those heels.

Could be the match-winner.

RATING: 8

FRANK STAPLETON, STRIKER



Last season people said the tall Irishman got the bulk of his goals because of playing alongside Malcolm Macdonald.

This season's proved he can play in his own right and still keep the goals rolling in.

Frank's aerial power may not be quite as devastating as Joe Jordan's at the other end but his dark thatch nods 'em in with sufficient regularity to make him a menace to any goalkeeper.

He's no slouch on the ground either.

RATING: 8

STEVE WALFORD, SUBSTITUTE



A towering defender who will come to the fore with maturity. He's already proved a more than capable stand-in for Young, Nelson and O'Leary and he won't let Arsenal down if he plays.

RATING: 7

MAN. UNITED

SAMMY McILROY, MIDFIELD



Can be devastating on his day especially when he's making those well-timed runs which seem to take him past people as though they don't exist.

Doesn't always channel his spirit and energy as well as he might but can be a very dangerous customer and knows the route to goal. Also contrives some awkward moments from free-kicks as England almost discovered to their cost in the Northern Ireland international at Wembley.

His battle for midfield ascendancy will be crucial.

RATING: 8

STEVE COPPELL, MIDFIELD



Steve has had a strange sort of season. He didn't really get going for the first few months, playing better for Ron Greenwood at England level than for Dave Sexton at his own club.

Latterly though he has recaptured the old sparkle and highlighted that with some spectacular goals, notably the two which left Joe Corrigan stranded like a whale in the derby game.

Steve's knowledge of the Wembley wings could be invaluable too.

RATING: 8

BRIAN GREENHOFF, MIDFIELD



Peculiar in a sense that United always seem to play better when he's in the side, yet he can't lay claim to being one of the first names pencilled in every week.

In terms of usefulness in being able to play anywhere for his manager Brian is indispensable and like Price he pops up with goals like the one that put United ahead of Liverpool in the first Semi-Final at Maine Road.

Not highly gifted, but extremely competitive and better on your side than against you.

RATING: 7

MICKY THOMAS, MIDFIELD



This is a lad who does busy himself and is now beginning to justify the fee Dave Sexton paid to Wrexham for his services.

A player's player Micky gets through a mountain of work without ever looking for the limelight and his contribution to United's recent improvement, especially in Cup-ties should not be underestimated.

Like Gary Bailey he could write the perfect ending to the script for his first season in the top flight.

RATING: 7

JIMMY GREENHOFF, STRIKER



What a magnificent season this chap has had — and yet he nearly joined Chelsea before it even started!

United's player of the season without a doubt. His selfless running, ability to control in the tightest situation and poaching talent in the box, make him one of the outstanding strikers in the game.

He got the winner at Wembley two years ago so perhaps it's expecting too much for lightning to strike twice. Fighting to get fit.

RATING: 8

JOE JORDAN, STRIKER



Fiercely competitive to the point of being almost frightening (especially when he takes those front teeth out!) Joe won't give or ask any favours on May 12th.

He now seems to have got over the injury which kept him out for a prolonged spell, and he gave Liverpool's defence a torrid time in the Semi's.

Unfairly criticised in the past Joe will be doubly keen to show the knockers that he really can play a bit — and score goals.

RATING: 9

LOU MACARI, SUBSTITUTE



Vastly experienced, of course, and may yet be preferred to Brian Greenhoff.

It's not been his happiest of seasons and injuries haven't helped.

RATING: 8

Let's add up the marks and see who's going to win.

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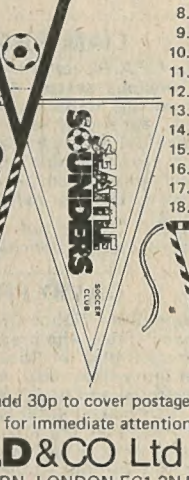
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REFEREES' CROSSTALK



'I thought I'd missed the boat'

DEREK NIPPARD, who refereed the 1978 Cup Final

pensioner, Ron, is one year older than the one who wrote to me. Could it be the same man? He requested an autographed photograph, which I was delighted to send him.

CHALLIS: I'm approaching the Final as I do a League game. That means training twice a week, playing squash, running and doing stamina training. You've got to be fit to survive today. Players are faster than their predecessors, tackles are sharper, there's more physical involvement. Contact at speed makes it harder to determine what is intentional and what's not. I shan't be more lenient because it's a Cup Final. Do that and all your respect from players goes. I'll carry my two trusty whistles, costing not much more than 40p each (I prefer the plastic ones), three watches, one of them presented by the Tunbridge Wells Referees' Society on the day I was promoted to the List in 1968.

NIPPARD: I did a bit of extra road work. I needed to Ron, standing 6ft 3in tall and weighing over 14 stone. A sports goods firm sent me a lovely track suit for the Final. I'd have worn it if the weather hadn't been so good. I carried a silver stop watch given me 24 years ago, and a wrist watch. Yes I had two plastic whistles — and a pencil, sharpened at both ends.

CHALLIS: I'll apply the same principles to the match. If it's got to be a penalty in the first minute, I'll give it. I'll simply treat every incident as I see it. Of course there's pressure on refs at the Final. It's a fact of life that referees cannot go through a match without making at least one mistake. Television cameras see most things, but it's sometimes difficult for a ref whose view is obscured by a huge defender.

NIPPARD: You're right about mistakes. I reckon the best refs simply make fewer mistakes than the others. Yet it never entered my head I would make a mistake in the 1978 Final. I must say I oppose this "Trial by Television" in which a ref's performance comes under the microscope. Jimmy Hill reckons it's important but I wonder if it does any good for the game.

CHALLIS: I'm totally impartial, Derek, but did you have a few favourite clubs when you were refereeing? I must confess to looking first for the results of Gillingham and Charlton, two South-east clubs, on Saturday nights.

NIPPARD: Oh yes. I loved going to West Ham, Q.P.R. and Aston Villa. They always treated me well. It might also surprise a few to know that Millwall was another favourite ground. I never saw hooliganism, but I loved their humour. Mill-



'And me, I couldn't believe I'd been chosen'

RON CHALLIS, the 1979 F.A. Cup Final referee

and Birmingham still haunts me. A tragedy, but what a brave goalkeeper. In more recent years I've tended to watch the match officials as much as the players. I won't forget Bob Matthewson's great performance in refereeing the Liverpool-Manchester United Final in 1977. He wasn't over officious and let the game flow. That's my objective this year.

NIPPARD: I haven't seen too many Cup Finals, Ron. Sad isn't it, I refereed the 1978 Final but haven't got a ticket this time.

CHALLIS: Are you a bit of a royalist, Derek? I am unashamedly. I was thrilled to meet the Duke of Kent when I was senior linesman at the 1975 Final. It will be a marvellous moment again, this time meeting the Prince of Wales. I believe it's the first time he has been to Wembley Stadium. I wonder if he'll be as nervous as me? Doubt it, don't you Derek?

NIPPARD: Royalty seem so relaxed on these occasions, Ron. Princess Alexandra looked the coolest person in the stadium in 1978 and her husband, Angus Ogilvy, chatted to me about the pitch. "What do you think of it?" he said. "I think it will play well, sir," I replied. How wrong I was, it was not at its best.

CHALLIS: No doubt about this being the greatest moment of my 11 year career as a referee.

NIPPARD: My proudest moment, too. There were 29 telegrams in the dressing room when I arrived. I never smoke on match days but I did that day. One after the other over lunch before the game. What will you do after the Final Ron, take a long rest?

CHALLIS: Rest! You're jok'ng, Derek. My diary is full of dinners, presentation evenings and visits to junior clubs I've promised and shall fulfil. I love getting involved in the "grass roots" of the game.

CHALLIS: I thought I was the victim of an April Fool's joke when the F.A. informed me that I would referee the Cup Final. The 'phone went at home in Tonbridge on April 1st and there was this so-called F.A. official telling me I'd got the Final. I say "so-called" because I thought it was a spoof call. Eighty odd refs on the list and they had chosen me. It couldn't be true. I took some convincing I tell you, Derek.

NIPPARD: The same happened to me under different circumstances, Ron. I was hopeful I'd get the game between Arsenal and Ipswich in my final season but thought I'd missed the boat. The F.A. generally ring early on the Sunday after the Semi-Finals. It was 8.20 in the evening when the call came through. I was so overwhelmed I asked the caller to hang on whilst I lit a cigarette to steady my nerves.

CHALLIS: This is the highlight of my career with one season to go before retirement. I couldn't believe the response to my appointment. I received ten telegrams within hours of the news getting out. Three League clubs, Crystal Palace, York City and Reading, were among the first to congratulate me. Others came from referees' societies. Tonbridge, my local Southern League club, and Ashford Town sent their best wishes. Youngsters sent messages — and one came from an 87-year-old fan.

NIPPARD: We must be popular, Ron. I had 120 telegrams, 300 letters and dozens of 'phone calls, not one begging a Cup Final ticket. Five men I'd served with in the RAF from 1950-52 made contact. Your

wall were one of the clubs to send me congratulations on getting the Cup Final.

CHALLIS: You need a sense of humour, that's why criticism never worries me. Like most people in authority, I accept that my decisions will be challenged. I try to ride it with a smile.

NIPPARD: You're on a loser from the start, Ron. It's a devil of a job out there in the middle, made no easier by an increase in the theatricals, players taking a "dive" and suchlike. Play acting is difficult to spot. But let's be fair, as a referee's assessor I can see both sides of the story.

CHALLIS: Let's forget the problems and talk about the joy of refing. I love to chat to the players. I'll do it at the Cup Final, trying to gain their respect and strike up an understanding. I'll say things like "You could have done with a square pass instead of that ball, Jimmy." Never critical, just conversational.

NIPPARD: Yes, I miss all that, the chat, the big match involvement. That Arsenal-Ipswich Final was the biggest match I controlled.

CHALLIS: Some would argue it came too late in your career, Derek. My belief is that experience counts for everything when one bad decision can ruin a big game. Young referees are not always proven.

NIPPARD: I agree wholeheartedly. I wouldn't have wanted a match like that earlier in my career.

CHALLIS: I'm hoping we can get through the game without injury. The distant memory of Bert Trautmann breaking his neck in the 1956 Final between Manchester City

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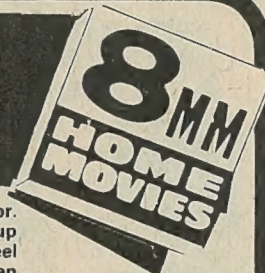


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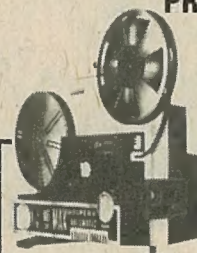
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Also 200ft/400ft col SOUND
- 1976 Scotland 2, England 1 200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w SOUND
- 1975 England 5, Scotland 1 200ft
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It's going to be a close Final — who says? The experts, the players themselves. SHOOT asked a representative from each of the 20 other First Division clubs for their predictions.

UNITED • 11, ARSENAL • 9

JIMMY RIMMER (Aston Villa)

IT'S Arsenal for me but by the smallest of margins. Both teams are so evenly balanced it should be an intriguing affair. Experience in particular positions will have a major bearing on the result. In goal for Arsenal there's Pat Jennings, who has gained tremendous experience from international matches, and Cup Finals with Spurs. Whereas, it's Gary Bailey's first Wembley Final. I hope both teams can settle down to play the kind of football they're capable of. 2-1 to Arsenal.

JIM CALDERWOOD (Birmingham)

I BELIEVE this year's Final is going to be the tightest for years. United are a better team attacking but the Arsenal defence gives very little away. I fancy the Old Trafford side to have the edge because they have more flair. Arsenal tend to rely on Liam Brady too much. Manchester United to win 2-1.

WILLIE MORGAN (Bolton Wanderers)

DEEP down I would love to see Manchester United take the Cup but I have a strong feeling Arsenal are going to win. I believe, because of Wembley being so big, I can see the likes of Liam Brady and Graham Rix down the left side revel in the space given. It will be a tremendously hard game and although I still have a soft spot for United, I feel Arsenal will be the better team on the day and come off 3-1 winners.

GARY COLLIER (Bristol City)

I HAVE a strong fancy for Arsenal. It is going to be a close game but the London club seem stronger in midfield and up-front. If they have a weakness it is definitely at the back but whether Manchester United can exploit this remains to be seen. The real match-winners could turn out to be Stapleton and Sunderland who have struck up a fine partnership. Yes, The Gunners to win 2-1.

GARRY STANLEY (Chelsea)

IT'S going to be a very close game with only one goal in it, and I'm tipping Manchester United to win 2-1. They have a very good set-up in midfield, but overall they're an attacking team with so much flair. I reckon it's going to be an exciting Cup Final and I honestly feel anyone of seven United players can swing the game their way. Sorry Arsenal, it's United for me.

STEVE HUNT (Coventry)

ALTHOUGH it is going to be a very close affair, I think United will win

because they knocked out Liverpool in the Semi-Finals. I feel they are better equipped for a Cup Final than Arsenal. Their workrate is superior to the London side and if they cancel out Liam Brady then I am confident they will win — possibly by 2-1.

STEVE WICKS (Derby County)

A VERY, very close game but I take Arsenal to lift the Cup. When The Gunners are on song, they're a match for any team in the country. Their two front-runners, Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland make a very good partnership, which could turn it Arsenal's way. I reckon Frank Stapleton is possibly the most underrated player in the League. After last season's defeat by Ipswich, it will make Arsenal even more determined to do well and that will give them the edge. I'm sure they will sneak victory and make amends for last term.

DAVE THOMAS (Everton)

IT'S going to be a close game with only a few goals in it. But I have a soft spot for Manchester United because of Dave Sexton my former boss. It would be a great achievement to win the Cup for his efforts in the past. Both sides have great individual players and if United can stay tight on Liam Brady, I'm sure that's where they will come out on top. The fans always expect the favourite players to turn it on on the day but I can see an unknown becoming a hero. I rate United's chances now, but it all depends on the day.

JOHN WARK (Ipswich)

I'VE played against them both this season and I definitely fancy Manchester United to win. The Old Trafford club can lift the Cup if they cut off the supply to Arsenal's brilliant midfield star Liam Brady. The Gunners never seem to function on all cylinders if the Republic of Ireland international is not totally involved in the game. United, on the other hand, thrive on the big occasion and I'm confident Dave Sexton's lads will win by the odd goal.

GARY OWEN (Manchester City)

WHAT a Cup Final it should be with the two most famous clubs in the world in opposition. The match is evenly balanced but I can see United sneaking in by the odd goal. Manchester are so strong in the air with Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan. And it was Joe who upset the Liverpool defence in the Semis. Manchester United always seem to bring out that little bit extra in F.A. Cup matches but if the game goes to a replay, then I must rate Arsenal's chances.

BRENDON BATSON (West Brom)

I TAKE Arsenal to win the Cup — just. I've got a soft spot for them. I spent the early part of my career at Highbury and have a high regard for the club. They won't be caught cold again. With Brady fit they'll take some holding. Last year they relied too much on "Chippy" and suffered the consequences when he wasn't fully fit for Wembley. United are an out and out Cup side and will take some holding, but The Gunners should do it.

ALAN HANSEN (Liverpool)

I GO for Manchester United but it will be close. I wouldn't put money on it. It's so tight I'd probably back the one that's given the best price. If Man U play like they did against us, Arsenal could struggle. But Arsenal are unlikely to make the same mistakes they made in losing to Ipswich in the 1978 F.A. Cup Final.

MICKEY BURNS (Middlesbrough)

ARSENAL will prove the better side on the day and I'm sure Pat Rice will be the captain who will lift the F.A. Cup. I believe they are stronger defensively and in midfield. The Gunners will be determined to make up for last season's disaster and will battle harder. Mind you, if they are not in the right frame of mind then United possess the players to win the game handsomely.

KEVIN EDND (Norwich City)

MANCHESTER United to win the Cup. But apart from ourselves I have fancied the men from Old Trafford from the moment the tournament started. Sammy McIlroy at present is bang on form and they can always rely on Jimmy Greenhoff popping up and scoring. Both of these are very good players. But overall, I feel United have far more flair in their side and are exciting to watch. So it's 2-1 to Manchester United for me.

KENNY BURNS (Nottingham Forest)

THIS should be a classic Cup Final. Arsenal's strikers Alan Sunderland and Frank Stapleton against Gordon McQueen and Martin Buchan at one end. At the other, Jimmy Greenhoff and Joe Jordan battling for supremacy against David O'Leary and Willie Young. But the game could be won in another department. I fancy a draw but if I had to put my head on the block I'd go for Manchester United. There is a feeling in my bones that Micky Thomas and Steve Coppell could swing it United's way. Yet it has all the makings of a classic draw. An impossibility in an F.A. Cup Final of course, so I'm going for United.

MARTYN BUSBY (Queens Park Rangers)

COMING from the South I would like to see Arsenal win the Cup but I have a strong feeling Manchester United are going to take it. I think United have the better all round players and with Jimmy Greenhoff, having possibly his best season, I rate him one of the best strikers around. Micky Thomas is having a fine season down the left and McIlroy is playing well in the middle of the park. If both team can play to their capabilities, it should be one of the most entertaining for many seasons. The Red Devils to win 2-1.

IVAN GOLAC (Southampton)

MANCHESTER United to beat Arsenal 2-1. When we played United at Old Trafford early on in the season I thought they were a very good side. No disrespect to Arsenal but I believe United have hit the right sort of form at the right time to win the Cup. Whereas Arsenal have struggled in recent League games. United's Jimmy Greenhoff is a great player. I would say he was the best forward early on in the country at present. He's very quick inside the box. But Arsenal have Alan Sunderland, who scored a marvellous goal against us at Highbury. But, I'm sticking to United in a close affair.

COLIN LEE (Spurs)

THIS may surprise a few people but I go for our rivals Arsenal to win the F.A. Cup. Their defeat at Wembley last season will spur them on and Brady will make sure they do. He had a big disappointment last term when he wasn't fully fit and had to be substituted, but if fit he will have a big say in the outcome of Saturday's game.

ARTHUR GRAHAM (Leeds United)

THIS Final could go either way. I would like to see Arsenal win for the sake of my old team-mate at Aberdeen, Willie Young. He had a terrible time last season and he will be determined to make up for it. I think it will be an entertaining game because both sides are not too defensive.

JOHN RICHARDS (Wolves)

I AM not much of a tipster but I go for Arsenal. I've spoken to my old friend Alan Sunderland and I get the impression The Gunners will be in the right frame of mind this year. They are determined to erase the memory of last season's flop against Ipswich. Mind you, any side that knocks out Liverpool will be in a confident mood and United will have to be watched all the way. There could be a few goals and I fancy Arsenal to win 3-1.



Arsenal's Semi-Final goalscorers Alan Sunderland (above, left) and Frank Stapleton after the game. The final whistle has gone and Gunners' fans (right) realise they will be going back to Wembley.

ARSENAL ARE THERE AGAIN!

Graham Rix (right, white shorts), Arsenal's talented midfield player, beats Kenny Hibbitt, the Wolves captain, to the ball and sets up another attack for The Gunners.



For the second successive season Arsenal reached the F.A. Cup Final, when they beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-0 in the Semi-Finals at Villa Park. Arsenal hero Alan Sunderland is sandwiched between Wolves' John McAlle (left) and George Berry. Sunderland wrapped the game up for The Gunners by scoring the second goal.



Sammy Nelson (below) is in danger, stooping to head the ball from the foot of John Richards of Wolves. Molineux boss John Barnwell (right) places a comforting arm on Peter Daniel's shoulder.



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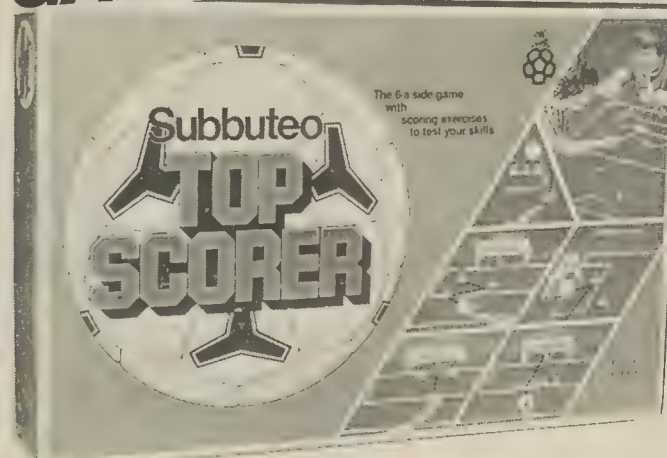
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1. Which Nottingham Forest player scored twice in the 1979 League Cup Final against Southampton?

2. Sort out this set of muddled names: Steve Brooking, Tony Dalglish, Kenny Coppell, Trevor Currie.

3. Four First Division strikers. Fill in the missing letters in their names: B-- -at---o-d; C-r-i-le-e--s; T---o--r-n-i-i; Ji--y-r-en-o--; A--n-----land.

Prizes will be awarded for the first 50 correct replies checked after the closing date. The Editor's decision is final. Unfortunately, the competition is restricted to readers in the U.K., and Eire, except employees and their families of I.P.C. Magazines Ltd., and the printers of SHOOT. Closing date: May 26th.

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University Heighway

My Dad says Liverpool's Steve Heighway has got a University degree. Is he right?

PETER SMITH,
NORWICH

● Certainly is, Peter. Before deciding on a professional soccer career with Liverpool, Heighway gained a Bachelor of Arts degree at Warwick University. Which proves Steve's brain is as agile as those long-striding legs of his up the wing!

Draws

What's the record number of draws in one Division on a single Saturday?

MATTHEW FREWING,
LONDON, S.E.25

● I reckon, Matthew, you'd have a job beating the nine draws, in 11 games, in the English First Division on 18th September, 1948.

Preston beat Chelsea 3-2, and Stoke beat Middlesbrough 3-0 — while the nine draws were:
Aston Villa 3, Huddersfield 3;
Bolton 2, Blackpool 2;
Burnley 2, Birmingham 2;
Charlton 0, Newcastle 0;
Everton 1, Liverpool 1;
Manchester City 1, Portsmouth 1;
Sheffield Utd. 2, Manchester Utd. 2;
Sunderland 1, Arsenal 1;
Wolves 2, Derby 2.

World Cup at Highbury

My Dad and I are having an argument as to whether England once played a World Cup game on Arsenal's ground?

PHILLIP ARNOLD,
EALING

● Yes, they certainly did, Phillip — a 4-1 qualifying tie over Luxembourg on 28th September, 1961.

Ray Pointer, Dennis Viollet, and Bobby Charlton (two) got the England goals.

First black for England

Who was the very first black footballer to play for England?

DORIS LEE,
MAURITIUS

● Nottingham Forest's local-born Viv Anderson takes that honour, Doris — at least as far as full internationals are concerned.

He was in the side which beat Czechoslovakia 1-0 at Wembley on 29th November, 1978.

But Anderson, and others, had earlier played for the England Under-21 side.

Celtic grand slam

I know 1966-67 was Celtic's greatest season, but exactly what did they win that term?

GRAEME O'NEILL,
AUSTRALIA

● You might say THE LOT, Graeme! The Celts took the Scottish League (with a three-point margin over Rangers); the Scottish Cup (beating Aberdeen 2-0); the Scottish League Cup (beating Rangers 1-0); and the Glasgow Cup.

Oh, and I nearly forgot — by beating Inter Milan 2-1 in the Final, Celtic became the first British club ever to win the European Cup.

C.W.C. triumph

As a Chelsea supporter, I'd like to know who we beat to win the Cup-Winners' Cup in 1971?

ANDY CRICKSHANK,
MIDDLESEX

● The Greek club Aris Salonika were the first victims, Andy, by an aggregate of 6-2 (1-1 away; 5-1 home); and then it was a 2-0 defeat for CSKA Sofia (1-0 away, 1-0 home).

Next came Bruges by 4-2 (0-2 away; 4-0 home) — followed by Cup holders Manchester City by 2-0 (1-0 home, 1-0 away).

The Final, played in Athens, against Real Madrid ended all-square after extra time at 1-1 — but Chelsea took the replay two days later 2-1.

SHORT PASSES

● Sir Stanley Matthews played the first of his 54 full peacetime internationals for England in September, 1934; his last in May, 1957.

(JOSEPH RYAN, Co. Cork)

● Stan Bowles played 17 League games for Manchester City, five for Bury, 51 for Crewe, and 33 for Carlisle before joining Q.P.R. in September, 1972.

(ANDREW WOODVINE, Crewe)

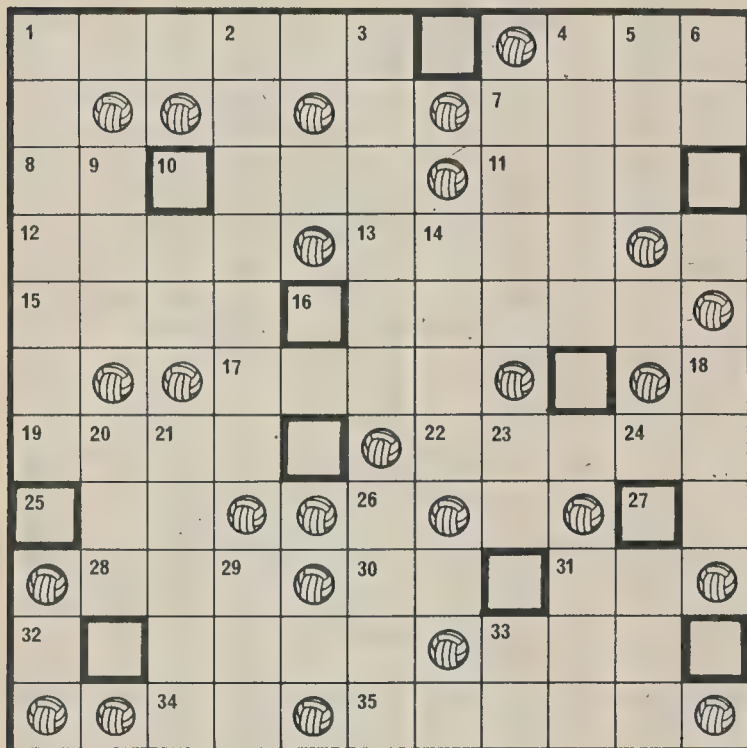
● Highest number of goals scored in a World Cup Final is seven — Brazil 5, Sweden 2 (in Stockholm in 1958).

(ALEC BARNES, Reafreshshire)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Birmingham City striker. Answers on page 46.



ACROSS:—

- (1) (2 Down) Scottish Premier Division club.
- (4) Awarded for an international appearance.
- (7) Malcolm —, Birmingham City defender.
- (8) — Nattrass, Newcastle United player.
- (11) Exposed . . . as in "an ---- goal".
- (12) Rests in a horizontal position.
- (13) First half of the team from Bayview Park.
- (15) Town with teams in both the English First and Second Divisions.
- (17) Bill S-----, Footballer of the Year, 1959/60.
- (19) Take five letters from Dens Park (Dundee) to make the name of a tree.
- (22) Fibrous animal tissue.
- (25) Bob —, Sunderland striker.
- (27) Willie --nachie of Manchester City.
- (28) F---ton Park, home of Pompey.
- (30) — Park, ground of Blackburn Rovers.
- (32) Recover that which one has expended or lost.
- (33) An ingrown one on the foot can cause one much trouble.
- (34) S-i-ffield Park, Berwick Rangers.
- (35) Somer--- --rk (Ayr). Glue from the missing letters.

DOWN:—

- (1) Liverpool defender. (4 & 4)
- (2) See 1 Across.
- (3) Forcible and convincing.
- (4) Leader of the team.
- (5) -n--rs, French League club.
- (6) Take four letters from Queens Park to make writing implements.
- (7) Nickname of Peterborough United.
- (9) — de Janeiro, 1950. Scene of the World's largest soccer crowd (200,000).
- (10) ---ch Field, ground of Swansea City.
- (14) Sean Ha-l--r-ve of Preston. The omissions reversed.
- (16) — Callaghan, Swansea midfield player.
- (18) Number of goals Hamburger SV scored (to beat Anderlecht) in the 1977 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final.
- (20) Che-t--fi-ld (The Spireites need the letters of "dry").
- (21) David —, Southampton defender.
- (23) The —, Scunthorpe United.
- (24) — Gray of Leeds United.
- (26) — Maier, famous West German goalkeeper.
- (29) S--k- City, The Potters.
- (31) Ralph C---es of Orient.

I'D RATHER win the F.A. Cup than the League Championship. I know that may not sound very professional but it just happens to be true.

Every player in the Football League dreams of playing in the Cup Final at Wembley and walking up those famous steps to collect one of the game's most coveted trophies.

Now I'm just 90 minutes away from making that dream come true, fulfilling a life's ambition . . . providing United beat Arsenal in what must be the most glamorous Cup Final for many years.

This will be the second time I've been involved in a Wembley Final. I was in Leeds United's 15-man squad for their match against Sunderland in 1973.

I'd only been at Elland Road for six months or so and knew I had no



'A win to

chance of playing, but Don Revie included me in all the pre-match preparations.

Before then I'd never realised just what the English Cup Final was all about. The tension, atmosphere and drama was unbelievable.

Scottish Cup Finals at Hampden are training sessions compared to those in England. There's not the same build-up, passion or fervour from the fans North of the border.

Although I didn't play in the 1973 Final, I've never been so nervous in my life.

I vowed then I'd never watch my team-mates in action at Wembley from the bench again.

If United reach the Final in the future and I'm not in the side I'll ask permission to stay at the hotel and watch the game on TV.

Those 90 minutes as a spectator six years ago were sheer torture, especially as Leeds, then one of the best teams in Europe and overwhelming favourites, were sensationally beaten by Second Division Sunderland.

This year most opinions from people inside the game are split down the middle, but the bookies have made Arsenal slight favourites.

Being the underdogs won't worry Manchester United, especially after the way we beat Liverpool in the Semi-Final replay at Goodison.

That victory on Merseyside did our confidence a power of good. United now fear no one.

One reason for our Cup victory was that shattering League defeat by Liverpool at Old Trafford on Boxing Day.

As you may recall they demolished United 3-0 to strengthen their position at the top of the First Division.

But we learned a valuable lesson that festive afternoon — how to beat Liverpool.

No use allowing them to settle and play their normal game, you must attack them, hustle them,

my soccer world

**GORDON
McQUEEN**



match their work-rate.

Well, not only did we match their amazing running power at Goodison . . . we beat it!

After drawing 2-2 at Maine Road and proving United had the spirit to fight and compete with a team like Liverpool, I knew we could finish the job in the replay. And we did thanks to another match-winning goal by Jimmy Greenhoff.

Jimmy has been United's Cup hero this season. Apart from that vital goal at Goodison he scored one in our Third Round defeat of Chelsea . . . one in the Fourth Round at Fulham and then the only goal of the game in the replay at Old Trafford.

Golden goal Jimmy was also United's match-winner against Colchester in the Fifth Round.

Mind you his contribution hasn't been a surprise to me or any of the other lads at Old Trafford. He's

been performing with as much skill for many seasons.

Scoring Cup-winning goals needs a cool head . . . and they don't come any calmer than Jimmy Greenhoff, especially in and around the box.

Tell you another thing that amazed me about United's victory . . . the way the Liverpool lads and manager Bob Paisley congratulated us after the game.

Knowing how deeply defeat must have hit them, their spontaneous sporting gesture was a most moving moment.

Mr. Paisley was obviously so delighted for our boss Dave Sexton, who has been the target for a great deal of criticism this season.

Not so long ago he was being slaughtered by the local Press and fans.

After Christmas, following that Liverpool defeat, few gave United a

United skipper Martin Buchan tackles Arsenal's Alan Sunderland at Highbury this season.



celebrate United's 100 year history'



Leeds (all white) in action against Sunderland in the 1973 Cup Final.

hope of achieving anything to mark the club's centenary.

Now we are at Wembley and still in with a slight chance of ending high enough in the table to qualify for Europe.

Suddenly the jeers have turned to cheers and Dave Sexton isn't such a bad manager after all.

Apart from Jimmy Greenhoff, the boss has appeared the coolest man at Old Trafford. But I know beneath that calm exterior he has been suffering this season.

He's all for the players so you can imagine how badly we felt after failing to perform as expected match after match.

Then it all clicked into place and the team began to look as though it was capable of winning something.

Suddenly Manchester was gripped in Cup fever. The good old days had returned.

With such a back-log of League matches to play after the Semi-Final, the lads at Old Trafford have only recently been able to fully concentrate on Wembley. Now the excitement is building up.

To help ease the tension and to avoid people begging for Cup Final tickets I've tried to steer clear of as many pre-Final functions as possible.

One I had to attend because it had been arranged months ago was for a very worthwhile cause.

Along with some of the Manchester City lads, Colin Crompton, of Wheel-Tappers and Shunters fame and stars from Coronation Street, I went around the clubs and pubs in the area to push over piles of pennies for charity.

As you read this I'll be with the United squad in our Wembley hideaway in a hotel in the Surrey

countryside . . . far from the maddening crowd of well-wishers, Press-men and not so well-wishers.

We left Manchester directly after our rearranged home match against Wolves on Monday night.

Training has been light this week. Generally we've rested and concentrated on beating Arsenal on Saturday.

United drew 1-1 with The Gunners at Highbury and lost 2-0 at Old Trafford in the League this season, but those results will have no bearing on the Cup Final.

I've the greatest respect for Arsenal and believe they are only one or two players short of being a really cracking side.

No disrespects to Graham Rix, who has done a splendid job this season, but I feel they need a top class winger to provide the service for Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland.

I'll be up against Frank on Saturday and expect a hard time. In my opinion the lad is one of the most underrated players in the First Division.

Frank's scored around 30 goals this season yet never seems to get a mention in the Press.

Stapleton isn't the only Arsenal dangerman, of course. There are 11 of them.

Although winning the Cup for the second time in three years will be a tough proposition for United I'm confident we will celebrate our 100-year history in real style.

Jimmy Greenhoff

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1968, 1971, 1978

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BARCELONA

V

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Founded: 1933

Champions:

1933
(qualified for
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beaten Final-
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completed the
Double)

BARCELONA'S EXPERIENCE COULD BE DECISIVE

IN recent years West German clubs have usually had the edge over the Spaniards in Euro competitions, but this Barcelona against Fortuna Dusseldorf confrontation looks like being a finely-balanced Final with two young managers aiming to make their mark at European level.

There's also an interesting contrast in styles between the Germans' strong, never-say-die team football and the Spaniards' greater emphasis on the individual skills of strikers like Hans Krankl and Juan Carlos Heredia, backed by strict man-to-man marking and rugged defence.

On the other hand, neither team has exactly steam-rolled its way to the Final. Barcelona convincingly disposed of Russian side Shakter Donetsk 4-1, but then struggled to beat Anderlecht on penalties, Ipswich on away goals and the part-timers of SK Beveren, thanks to a dubious penalty in each leg.

Meanwhile, Fortuna were beating Craiova University 5-4, Aberdeen 3-2, Servette on away goals and Banik Ostrava 4-3. What's more, both clubs have had erratic League campaigns this term. The Spaniards' win in Beveren in the Semi-Finals was only their second victory outside Barcelona during the whole season; and Fortuna,

though comfortably placed in the Bundesliga, have been amazingly inconsistent.

With more than 60 League goals to their credit, they're among the top scorers, but they've also conceded more than 50 goals to have one of the worst defensive records of the Bundesliga.

Significantly, the lion's share of their goals has come from midfield players Klaus Allofs, aged 22, and Gerd Zewe, 28, and a lot may depend on whether they can gain midfield control against experienced campaigners such as Johan Neeskens and Juan Manuel Asensi. In theory, Barcelona are favourites to win the Final, with no fewer than 12 internationals in their squad, including Europe's top marksman Hans Krankl, who's already scored five goals in the competition.

But their away form has been poor, and the club is providing a massive fleet of buses to give fans free transport to Basle in a bid to create a home atmosphere.

The Barcelona players are confident of lifting the Cup and pocketing their £7,000-a-man bonus. Following the sacking of Lucien Mul-



ler, 37-year-old 'Quimet' Rifé has boosted the squad's morale, tightened up on discipline, and put the team through some tough training even at this late stage of the season.

He's also re-introduced Barcelona's offside trap, and fans shouldn't expect an attractive all-attack performance from what is basically a serious safety-first side.

Fortuna's 35-year-old boss, Dieter Tippenhauer, favours a more

open style, throwing a lot of men forward and using veteran winger Wolfgang Seel to break on the left, while the midfielders move upfield into scoring positions.

In this stark contrast of styles, a lot will depend on who comes out on top in the battle for domination in midfield, which makes this a difficult game to predict, though Barcelona's greater experience at top level could be a decisive factor on the night.



BARCELONA... Back row: Artola, de la Cruz, Neeskens, Zuviria, Olmo, Miqueli. Front row: Esteban, Heredia, Krankl, Asensi, Martinez.

Johan Neeskens - Not wanted by Barcelona or his wife

WHEN Johan Neeskens (right) walked off the pitch after last year's World Cup Final, he could hardly have imagined that within 12 months he would be discarded by his club and more or less forced to abandon European football.

After all, the 27-year-old had played in two consecutive World Cup Finals and had established

himself as one of the world's most renowned midfield players.

Back in Barcelona, Johan laughed at early reports the Spanish club would release him at the end of this season, but his smile turned a little sour when he asked the club for a new three-year contract — and found out to his amazement the rumours were

well-founded.

Johan had confidently asked for a figure approaching £250,000 a season, and Barcelona's negative response left him with a big problem — who else could afford to pay this sort of money?

Neeskens was not short of offers from various European countries, but in all cases the hang-up was the same. The cash didn't compare with what he's been earning in Barcelona, and taxation outside Spain is much more severe than the 20 per cent he's been paying — or rather, the club has been paying!

So, in purely financial terms, the trip to the States to join the Cosmos was the only logical solution — and this will almost certainly mean the end of Johan's outstanding international career with the Dutch national team.

This abrupt turnabout in his fortunes hasn't been the only problem Neeskens has had to wrestle with this season. His private life has also left a lot to be desired, and Johan has now left his wife Marianne (left) and their son, Cristian, after a long spell of increasingly bitter disagreements.

Each blames the other for the split — Johan insists his wife became "unbearable" and chased him with a knife, while Marianne reveals her husband was rarely at home and that she attempted to commit suicide on one occasion.



In the meantime, Johan has gone to live with a local girl, Montse Zoraa and her nine-month-old son, while Marianne's current companion is a Barcelona sports photographer named Albert Baleyo.

Not surprisingly, Johan's form on the field has suffered a great deal while he's been wrestling with his professional and private problems, and the saddest aspect for soccer fans is we may have seen the last of Johan Neeskens as a top international star.

American clubs are loathe to release players for international matches, and one can't help but wonder if Johan's aggressive play will readily adapt to artificial turf.



Mrs. Marianne Neeskens with her boyfriend.

A RECENT holiday in Spain gave me the chance to see Mario Kempes in action for Valencia. Even though I knew the Argentina star wasn't having a particularly happy season, I was amazed at Mario's form in the game I saw, against Espanol. He was barely recognisable as the player who did so much towards helping his country win the 1978 World Cup.

Kempes seemed uninterested, did about as much running as his goalkeeper, and when he did get within sight of goal, preferred to try for a penalty than go on.

SHOOT ran an article about Mario recently entitled "Superstar or 12-day Wonder?" I'm beginning to think he's the latter.

THE directors of a Brazilian club in Arapiraca spent several hours putting padlocks on the doors and windows of the players' rooms at their training camp to stop them slipping out at night while in "concentration" before games. The players weren't worried — they escaped via the roof! However, getting back proved to be a problem and when one player was stuck in the hole, the trick was discovered!



EAST Germans Champions-elect Dinamo Berlin played West Germany's 1.FC Kaiserslautern in a friendly recently and Lutz Eigendorf asked for political asylum. Normally, players have to wait 12 months before they can play for a West German club in such circumstances, but Kaiserslautern have offered Dinamo £25,000 in hard German currency. Even so, the East Germans are expected to say "nein".

WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY

CHRIS DAVIES

QUALIFIERS in the European Championship will play in two groups of four in Italy in 1980, giving each team at least three matches. These will be played on June 11th and 12th; June 14th and 15th; June 18th and 19th. The group winners will play in the final in Rome on June 22nd, and the match for third place on June 21st.

Fillol dropped by Argentina

IN Argentina, Rosario Central were the only team to take maximum points from their first five games. Naturally, this puts them at the head of Group B, but surprisingly newly-promoted Ferro Carril Oeste are hard on their heels having dropped only one point, and notching impressive wins over Independiente and Boca Juniors.

Group A is a more closely-fought contest, with just two points separating the top six teams. Buenos Aires' richest club, River Plate, got away to a good start but, as usual, internal disputes have broken their rhythm.

Half the first team are still arguing with the club about new contracts, and the most spectacular disagreement involves Argentina's World Cup goalkeeper 'Pato' Fillol (left).

The 28-year-old 'keeper asked the club for a signing-on fee of £125,000, plus a salary of £5,000 a month, and was so incensed at the club president's negative reply he refused to travel with the team for a League match against Unión in Santa Fe.

Fillol was promptly suspended for ten days, and his suspension was then extended for another 15 days after comments made to the Press.

What's more, Argentine manager César Luis Menotti was forced to drop Fillol from the squad he's preparing for the European tour, so the man rated by many as the best 'keeper in the world has suddenly found himself on the sidelines, and his future seems uncertain, to say the least.

No other Argentinian club can afford to pay the sort of money he's asking, and if he leaves Argentina his international career could be seriously jeopardised.

● As we go to Press, Fillol appears to have reduced his demands and could tour after all.

ONLY 6,264 fans saw the European Championship tie between Belgium and Austria (1-1).

A BIG transfer fee doesn't always guarantee goals. Juventus paid £1.3 million for striker Pietro Viridi from Cagliari; he scored one goal last season and has three to his credit this time round... all of them scored against the bottom-of-the-table Verona. In a game against Torino, Viridi missed an open goal with no one to beat. Afterwards, Juventus chairman Gianni Agnelli said: "Even I would have scored." Incidentally, Juve won that game 1-0, Torino's first home defeat in 56 games.

PAUL van Genechten, full-back of SK Beveren and the oldest player in the Belgian First Division, had to hurry away from their game against Anderlecht. He's a member of the fire brigade in Antwerp and had to go to work!

IVICA Surjak, the gifted outside-left of Hajduk Split has been played in midfield in recent internationals, but has told new boss Miljan Miljanic he will refuse to play unless he can play his usual role as an orthodox left-winger.

YUGOSLAV forward Miodrag Zivalevic recently scored for FC Nürnberg when they were beaten 2-1 in a Bundesliga match by Bochum. This made Zivalevic Nürnberg's top scorer this season... with four goals!

CZECHOSLOVAKIA is one of the most difficult countries in which to win away from home. This season, the League leaders Dukla have only managed it four times this season, with no away wins at all some match days.

Cruyff's problems not news

IT'S good to see the national newspapers taking notice of SHOOT's world soccer service. One Sunday paper had a story about Johan Cruyff's (right) financial problems, which may force him back into football with the Cosmos; of course, regular SHOOT readers would have read our article on Cruyff's money troubles last year. And we were the first to tell you Alberto Tarantini was leaving Birmingham City and had been registered with River Plate of Buenos Aires. SHOOT was also the first to present an in-depth interview with Osvaldo Ardiles. And while many people thought Argentina captain Daniel Passarella had signed for the Washington Diplomats, we confirmed to SHOOT readers Daniel was still playing for River Plate. There is still a lot of international soccer to come this season, and we on SHOOT will do our best to ensure our service sets the standards for others to follow.



PRICES UP - CROWDS DOWN

PERUVIAN Champions Alianza Lima had a dismal Copa Libertadores campaign, failing to pick up even a single point in their six qualifying matches. But they started the League in style by hammering eight past CNI in a one-sided game. The dominant (and depressing) note of the opening day was the lack of fans on the terraces — possibly due to the new higher prices.

Only 2,500 turned up to watch Alianza, while in the National Stadium fans had the chance to watch two top First Division matches one after the other... but only 3,577 turned up to watch.

17-HOUR SCHEDULE

PLAYERS who prefer an easy life had better not join Cruzeiro of Belo Horizonte. Zé Duarte, the Brazilian club's manager, has worked out the following schedule for his players at the Toca da Raposa training headquarters:

- 6 a.m. — Get up.
- 6.15 a.m. — Swimming (whatever the weather).
- 7.20 a.m. — Breakfast.
- 8.30 a.m. — Physical training.
- 11.30 a.m. — Lunch.
- 2 p.m. — Training, reserve team.
- 3 p.m. — Training, first team.
- 6.30 p.m. — Dinner.
- 9 p.m. — Supper.
- 11 p.m. — Bed.

BATISTA, One of Brazil's better players in the 1978 World Cup, is playing again after undergoing serious varicose vein surgery in his left leg.



This shapely supporter of Fort Lauderdale Strikers on the beach in South Florida shows who she likes!

Player-Power in Sweden

THE players of Swedish First Division club Djurgårdens IF (Malcolm MacDonald's summer club) have forced the directors to sack their manager, Alan Ball senior — and that even before the League had started!

The Djurgårdens players did not like Ball's tough attitude and they also complained his training sessions were 'too much running and too little ball work'. In Sweden they do not play football to make a living, but to have fun!

Alan Ball senior is the first manager in Swedish soccer to get the sack before a League game was played.

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I'M sure everyone will agree we have come through to finish the season quite well after the troubles we had. It's been a difficult campaign in many ways but the disruption was the greatest problem. Jimmy Armfield was the manager at the start, then Maurice Lindley took over as caretaker boss for a while. Jock Stein arrived but didn't stay long and then Jimmy Adamson came. Considering we had so many changes, I think the side did well to finish so high in the First Division.

It's a pity Jimmy Adamson didn't arrive three months earlier because we could have had a big

'The present side has more flair than Revie's team'

— TREVOR CHERRY

say in the title race if he'd been here. He brought stability to the club which was what it desperately needed. People knew where they stood once he arrived and settled things and we had a most successful run under him.

Stein brought a new system but then went, although the club didn't blame him. To take over Scotland was a great honour for him. Maurice Lindley didn't have the authority to make changes so we spent a long time just marking time.

The players respect Adamson and he has brought a whole new concept to the club. He knows how to run a big club and I feel Leeds could now be on the verge of a comeback.

Difference

This season didn't get off the ground for three months and we were 14th in the League table when Adamson came. That shows you what a difference he made. If he had been in charge from the start, there is no telling what he could have done. I'm sure we would have been very near to the League Championship title.

I don't believe you can compare this Leeds team with the old one. But what I do say is Leeds are getting respect back, from other First Division clubs. We've got that professionalism again and people know that when they meet Leeds, they're in for a tough time.

This team is different altogether to the one that made Leeds famous a few years ago. It's unfair on the present players to try and compare.

The style is different. I wouldn't knock the old team because the only people who do that, do so out of jealousy. But I will say this — I think the present side plays more entertaining football than the earlier one. We play with more flair and are getting more goals.

Personally, I've been happy with my own form. The disruption affected me earlier in the season like everyone else but I was picked regularly by Adamson and he must have been satisfied with my dis-

Two Leeds United stars assess their performances this season and the club's future



I SHALL be looking for a far higher level of consistency in my own game next term. In many ways, I couldn't wait for this season to end because I was frustrated with my own inconsistent form. It was infuriating, really good one week, indifferent the next. And I'm still trying to work out why.

I was good in patches, satisfied with my displays in some games but not others. It wasn't a very good start to the season for either the side or myself. We had a rough spell through the changes in management and I was injured for a while.

After that, I tended to drift in and out of the side. Injuries were partly responsible but I know my form wasn't consistent enough. Certainly not for First Division standard. I would have a good game and think the problem was solved. But then, a week later, I'd drift out of a game and the problem was back.

Now, it's a big pool of players at Leeds and you don't stay in the first team unless you're playing well. That's fair enough, I suppose,

'I must be more consistent'

— CARL HARRIS

and you've got to be on your toes for every match. If you're not producing the goods you'll be dropped.

Maybe inexperience was to blame. I feel I did lack something at times but you only get that by playing through the poor spells and trying to learn from mistakes.

I feel I would improve if I was a regular in the first team. Being in and out, tends to knock your confidence. But the only thing to do is to keep plugging away and hope things come right.

It really hit me when I was called up for the Welsh squad to play Malta. Arriving at the training headquarters and hearing all the other lads talking about how they were doing in the first team, upset me. I had been in the reserves and I didn't want to tell everyone about that. It really sunk home when that happened.

I don't blame anyone at the club for this situation; it's one of those things and it's up to me to sort it out. I'm 22 now and I suppose that still leaves me with plenty of time

to put it right.

I think my future is at Leeds. It is just up to me to find consistent form, playing well week after week, and not just in spasms. I know I am good enough. I think I've proved that when I have been in top form. I just need the consistency to go with it.

My speed off the mark is one of my main assets. I have been tight marked but I always fancy my chances of getting away from people, even if they're right beside me. But when defenders started closing down those extra few yards on me, I took a while to adapt.

Ability

But I've worked very hard on my game and I'll continue to do so. I want to get it right because I'm convinced Leeds have a great future just ahead of them. Everything came right once Jimmy Adamson arrived at Elland Road and we are quite capable of winning honours next season.

There is a good pool of players, great lads and fine spirit. It was a frustrating season for most of the campaign but once we had all settled down, the true ability began to come through.

Adamson is a very quiet person but he knows the game and has the respect of the players. What has got to be said, he says.

I need greater consistency in my game to really make my career take off. If that happens, I'd love to play a big part in the future success of Leeds United.

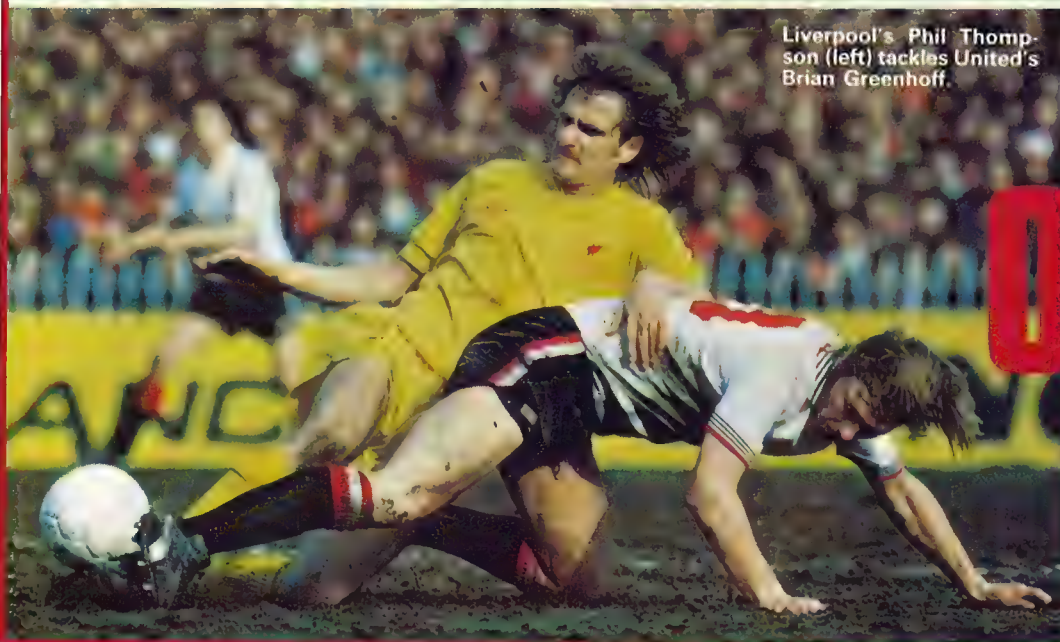


MANCHESTER United are back at Wembley for their third F.A. Cup Final appearance in four seasons. In 1976 The Reds lost to Southampton, then of the Second Division. The following year they returned and beat Liverpool 2-1. On that memorable day, Jimmy Greenhoff scored their winning goal. He also settled a classic Semi-Final replay v. Liverpool at Goodison. Now the man they call 'The Silent Assassin' will be hoping to deal the killer blow to Arsenal.

Joe Jordan (above) celebrates after scoring for Manchester United against Liverpool in the Semi-Finals. Gordon McQueen rushes to congratulate his team-mate.



Liverpool's Phil Thompson (left) tackles United's Brian Greenhoff.



**3 OUT
OF 4 FOR
UNITED**

Welsh wizard Micky Thomas (right) beats Terry McDermott to the ball.



LEFT: Battle in midfield (from left to right), Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness v. United's Brian Greenhoff and Martin Buchan. ABOVE Jimmy Greenhoff triumphant after scoring the goal that took United back to Wembley.



'WE WERE ALL BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED'

RAY CLEMENCE
talking soccer



MY statement that I'd never suffered the agonising experience of being on the losing side in a Semi-Final in any competition might have been construed as tempting fate, but I'm not over superstitious and I put Liverpool's defeat by Manchester United down to them being the better side on the night.

After they'd held us to a 2-2 draw in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Maine Road, Manchester, I felt the odds were on our side for the replay at Goodison Park, home of our Merseyside rivals Everton.

But although we had more possession, the Old Trafford Reds never stopped chasing, and their non-stop endeavours paid-off with a well-taken goal by their finest uncapped player, Jimmy Greenhoff.

So for the first time I endured at first hand the traumas and torments of being a losing Semi-Finalist, and missing out on appearing in the annual Wembley showpiece.

We were all bitterly disappointed, not only for ourselves but for our marvellous supporters. We

slumped on the benches, each suffering his own remorse, trying to accept a fact that was unthinkable just over 90 minutes beforehand. The replay had given us another chance of getting to Wembley, and we'd blown it, gone down to a simple, avoidable goal.

Slowly we stripped off, bathed, dressed and emerged for a brief inquest, which as you'd imagine mainly concerned United's gift goal.

Gradually we pieced the move together. It began when their young 'keeper, Gary Bailey, played the ball up the middle. It bounced in front of Joe Jordan and our Phil Thompson. Joe won the ball, knocking Phil down in the process, and passed to his team-mate Micky Thomas, on the edge of the 18-yard box. Sammy McIlroy, their best player, made a darting run to the near-post, drawing Alan Hansen from the centre of the goal.

That left Jimmy Greenhoff completely unmarked about eight yards out for Micky Thomas to find with a

finely-flighted cross.

I had no option but to rush off my line in an attempt to panic Jimmy, force him to take his eye off the ball.

In one report of the match, the writer showed his ignorance of goalkeeping when he referred to my action as "impetuous". If I had stayed on my line, Jimmy would have had the chance to bring the ball under control and have acres of space to shoot into.

As the ball bounced in front of him, Jimmy refused to lose his cool, and showing all his superb big match temperament stooped to head past me and into the far corner.

The ball was only fractions of an inch away from my hand, and if only I'd got a touch would have been deflected for a corner.

So it was good-bye Liverpool, to be consigned to the forgotten ranks of teams that failed to complete that last step to Wembley.

It's uncanny that although we've succeeded in pulling off doubles

involving a domestic trophy and a European one in the same season — Championship and U.E.F.A. Cup twice and Championship and European Cup — we just cannot do a "home" double.

At least most of us had had the magical experience of playing in a Final at Wembley, and also the build-up to the big occasion. Once, in 1974, we'd actually come away winners, against Newcastle, and brought the coveted Cup home to Liverpool and paraded it through the streets.

Less fortunate players have lost in a Semi-Final and never achieved their dream of even setting foot on the hallowed turf.

Another consolation was that for us the season was not over. We still had the Championship to play for. Within 24 hours we'd picked ourselves up and were concentrating on playing Arsenal, the other Finalists, on the Saturday at Anfield.

We felt a lot better after running out winners by 3-0.

It's ironic that both Arsenal and Manchester United are the two sides to have beaten us in Finals in the Seventies: Arsenal by 2-1 after extra-time in 1971, and United by the same scoreline in 1977.

Both sides have a justified reputation as fine Cup-fighters.

There's been a suggestion their players have been saving themselves for the Final, trying to avoid being injured and perhaps missing out on the great event, but I think it's a misguided policy.

We know from experience at Liverpool that it's important to keep in top gear especially when there's a vital match coming up.

The reason for Arsenal's lacklustre performance in last year's Final may be due to bad preparation.

The two teams are contrasting



'A simple avoidable goal by Jimmy Greenhoff.'

sides. Both have great coaches on the managerial side: United with Dave Sexton, the manager and Arsenal with Don Howe, chief coach.

Arsenal are a "method" team, very organised, with Liam Brady as the only spontaneous player with originality — often called "flair". The Gunners could argue Liam is not essential to them — that they reached the Final without him — but I regard him as their key player. Stop him, and his team struggles.

Arsenal are hard to beat, a team that can frustrate opponents and hit devastatingly on the break. Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland are hard-working strikers, with Sunder-

land capable of hitting very spectacular goals.

One I particularly admire he scored against Southampton in the Quarter-Final replay. The ball was played up to him by Rix, he turned on a sixpence, leaving the central-defender floundering, and struck a thunderous shot from 25 yards that 'keeper Peter Wells stood no chance of saving.

In midfield they are workmanlike, only Brady possessing the "magic touch".

The back-four is very solid, with David O'Leary outstanding. Behind them stands the majestic figure of Pat Jennings, still among Britain's elite of 'keepers, who kept his

team's hopes alive in last year's Final with a series of tremendous saves.

Whereas Pat will probably be the oldest player on the park at Wembley, his opposite number, Gary Bailey, is likely to be the youngest and most untried.

Some people regard him as the weak link. But the same view was held about Chris Woods, the lad who came in for Peter Shilton in last year's League Cup Final against us, and performed remarkably in that game and the replay.

I spoke to Gary after our League game at Anfield, which we won 2-0, in the players' lounge, and he told me he was not nervous over the prospect.

He may well feel differently when he starts to walk through the tunnel and then emerges in that awesome cauldron with its unnerving volume of sound.

I know I did in 1971. It scared me to death, and as a result I didn't play up to my ability.

I could have been more positive. For instance, when Eddie Kelly got their first goal from close-in, I should have come out at him instinctively and smothered the ball before he got his toe to it.

I was thinking too much about what I should do, instead of acting immediately danger threatened.

Perhaps this confession of mine will help carry on the good work for United. He's done exceptionally well in his sudden transition from third team football to the

highly skilled arena of the First Division.

United's defence is not the best around, and can be easily breached. We proved that in our games, only we failed to take advantage of most of the chances presented to us.

Their midfield is industrious, like Arsenal's, and in Sammy McIlroy possess one of the quickest, most inventive, players in that position.

Lou Macari and Brian Greenhoff will be in competition for a place alongside Sammy, and of the two I regard Lou as the more dangerous to opponents.

Steve Coppell has regained his best international form and could cause Sammy Nelson problems.

Micky Thomas, a good finisher around the edge of the box, has the temperament to pass the severe mental test imposed by Wembley.

Up-front, there's Joe Jordan, an old-fashioned type of centre-forward who uses his height and weight to telling effect.

Paired with Joe there'll be Jimmy Greenhoff, a perfect foil, whose positioning is brilliant. A player defences ignore at their peril.

Looking at the two teams on paper, I must favour United to take the Cup, but in Finals luck can play the decisive part — as I know only too well.

Lou Macari



'Wembley scared me in 1971.'

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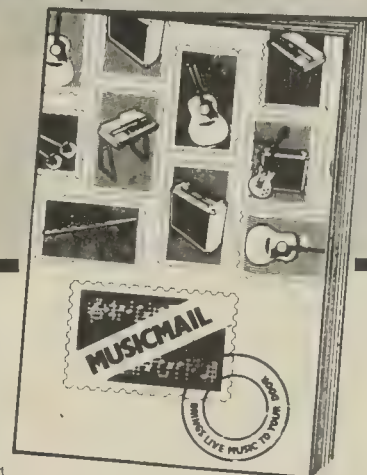
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NORWICH have introduced a new idea that is going down well with fitness fanatics in the area.

They hold weekly jogging sessions at their Carrow Road ground, under the supervision of first team coach John Sainty.

It's something other clubs should copy — to give supporters and local residents a sense of involvement.

Cup Final Disc

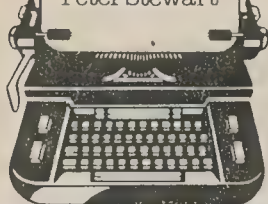
TO celebrate Arsenal's F.A. Cup Final appearance Robot Records have produced a new single... "Arsenal We're Right Behind You" by a group calling themselves The North Bank.

It's also available on 12" with a special souvenir sleeve.

ALAN and Keith Kennedy are brother left-backs who used to be rivals for the same position with the same club — Newcastle United. But what a contrast in their fortunes when both moved to Lancashire! Alan cost Liverpool £300,000 last August, but Keith, two years his senior, had gone to Bury on a free transfer!

NEWS

Compiled by
Peter Stewart



DESK



Liverpool's Phil Thompson England's New Skipper?

YES, the Anfield defender could be the surprise choice as England captain for the British Championship and summer tour. Manager Ron Greenwood faces a dilemma, as his regular skipper, Emyln Hughes, has been dropped by Liverpool.

Although Greenwood has, in the past, stayed loyal to Hughes, even when he wasn't in the Merseysiders' first team, it will be very difficult for him to pick 'Crazy Horse' who, by his own admission, hasn't been playing at all well.

Thompson has succeeded Hughes as captain of Liverpool and may now be given the national job as well. Phil has the right credentials.

A regular with Liverpool for six years, he has helped them to win the European and U.E.F.A. Cups, as well as domestic honours. Phil's England debut came under Don Revie in 1976 and now, in his mid-20's, could be groomed as captain with the 1980 European Championship in mind.

It is doubtful if the job will be handed to Kevin Keegan, as he isn't available for all of England's matches. Dave Watson is too old, so is Trevor Brooking, but he isn't really skipper material, great player though he is.

Ray Wilkins has been caught up in Chelsea's problems, but the challenge of a new club next season should see the midfielder fulfill his potential.

Thompson isn't yet a regular for England, but when the British Championship starts we could see Ron Greenwood hand him the most coveted job in English football.

Danny's Record

NORTHERN Ireland boss and one-time international captain Danny Blanchflower holds a Wembley Cup Final scoring record that has lasted 17 years.

Danny, Tottenham's 1961 League and Cup double-winning skipper, was the last Ulsterman to score in an F.A. Cup decider at Wembley, netting a penalty in Spurs' 3-1 1962 triumph over Burnley.

NEWPORT County manager Len Ashurst has endured more rebuffs than most in Soccer. When 16 a knee injury kept him out of soccer for a year... Liverpool let him go when they had had him for three years... Wolves cancelled his registration when he had been with them for three months... Sheffield Wednesday sacked him as manager in October, 1977. A rich change of fortune is due for Len.

Liverpool Fans in Eire

THE Waterford branch of the Liverpool Supporters Club are anxious to hear from anyone in the area keen on joining them. Write to The Secretary, Tommy Smith, 87 Hawthorn Drive, Hillview, Waterford, Eire; enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

VILLA 'HAT-TRICK'

ASTON Villa, whose season has been devastated by injuries, could soon be making a new signing. Bradburn Kirkland, a 19-year-old winger with Scottish junior club Arthurlie, recently had a week's trial at Villa Park.

Reports suggest that Kirkland is poised to sign on the dotted line and thus follow the path trodden at the end of last season by his ex-Arthurlie team mates, Tommy Graham and Willie Young.

DERBY COUNTY, one of the Football League's original 12 founder members, played their 2000th First Division game against Aston Villa at Villa Park. The Rams drew 3-3.



SOCCER CHAT

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of his uncle, Stan Bennett is Martin Bennett, the young West Bromwich Albion defender, who made his first team debut against Everton.

His only disappointment was that his uncle was not at the match. Young Martin did not know until an hour before the kick-off that he was playing against the Merseyside club.

Stan Bennett arranged for Martin to join Albion. He had talks with his old Walsall manager, Ronnie Allen, who was then in charge at The Hawthorns, and completed the arrangements for Martin to sign for the First Division side.

● Photo shows Uncle Stan in talks with Ronnie Allen which ultimately led to Martin joining West Brom.

Programme Fair... Programme Fair...

THERE'S a Programme Fair at Kingstonian F.C.'s ground this Sunday (May 13th) starting at 10.30 am.

Admission by programme is 20p for adults and 15p children and OAP's.

Programmes are available from the organiser P. Caulfield, 9 Park Farm Road, Kingston, Surrey by sending remittance and a stamped addressed envelope.

COVENTRY City will fill the fourth berth in the pre-season tournament to be run in Edinburgh by Hibs in August. Aston Villa were invited initially but were unable to accept because of their own Centenary plans.

Coventry will be popular contestants with the strong Scottish contingent in their line-up, including Ian Wallace, Jim Blyth, Jim Holton, Tom Hutchison and Gary Gillespie.

The four clubs competing will be Hibs, Hearts, Manchester City and Coventry City.

Lynex Returns

STEVE Lynex has joined Birmingham City on loan from Shamrock Rovers and thereby hangs a tale.

He formerly played for West Bromwich Albion but was given a free-transfer by Johnny Giles.

But when Giles moved to Shamrock one of the first players he signed was Lynex.

The 21-year-old striker has made a good impression in Dublin but found the cost of living in the city a big handicap and now he is back in the West Midlands on loan with Birmingham City.

Clough blasts Boro

THE outspoken Brian Clough has criticised his old club, Middlesbrough, for refusing to allow a testimonial match for Wilf Mannion and George Hardwick (below) to be staged at Ayresome Park.

The Nottingham Forest manager, who began his road to soccer fame at Ayresome Park, says: "It would not cost the club a penny. I cannot see anything wrong with creating a precedent for former players."

"If fans want to pay to see a testimonial match that is their privilege. Mannion and Hardwick would have graced any side in the world."

"Let's hope Boro directors change their minds for next season."

Mannion and Hardwick both won international fame with England. Mannion was one of the greatest forwards in the game. Hardwick captained both England and Great Britain at left-back.

● An England cap belonging to Wilf Mannion was auctioned for £1,000 at a recent testimonial dinner in Middlesbrough.



GEORGE Cowie, West Ham's promising midfielder, has certainly had a fair grounding in the game.

Eighteen this month, he had a spell with Buckie Rovers — in the fiercely competitive ranks of Scottish junior football — and captained the Scottish Youth international team.

Extremely proud of his position as skipper of the Scottish Youth side, the young Scot has been impressive with his forceful brand of midfield play.

Final FACTastics

WHICH team were awarded the Scottish Cup without actually winning it? It happened in 1884 when Queen's Park and Vale of Leven reached the Final. On Final day, however, Vale could not field a full team because of injuries. Reluctantly, as the Scottish F.A. would not agree to another date, they withdrew. So Queen's Park were awarded the trophy without playing for it. Only five years previously Vale of Leven were Finalists with Rangers. The result was a 1-1 draw but Rangers failed to appear for the replay so Vale were awarded the Cup. Can you imagine that happening today...?

NO referee is allowed to officiate in more than one F.A. Cup Final. The rule became law in 1902. But from 1880 to 1890 Major Marindin of the Royal Engineers was referee in eight Finals, seven in successive seasons. He previously captained the Engineers in the first ever Final.

WHEN Manchester United won the Cup in 1948 they never once appeared before their own fans at their Old Trafford home. Because their bomb blitzed headquarters were being rebuilt they were forced to travel to all their six ties, against Aston Villa (at Villa Park); Liverpool (at Goodison); Charlton (at Huddersfield); Preston (at Deepdale); the Semi-Final against Derby at Hillsborough, and, of course, the Final at Wembley. United won every game without any replays, a really "factastic" performance.

'MR GOALS', Dixie Deans, is still banging them in for Adelaide City in Australia. A former Celtic and Scotland star of the early 1970's, Dixie is one of the game's most prolific goalscorers.

BOLTON striker Alan Gowling has been battling against pain to complete the season before undergoing a cartilage operation.

THE Republic of Ireland will play Czechoslovakia in Prague on September 26th — and the Czechs will visit Dublin on May 18th, 1980.

An Easter Treat



COLIN Jackson, Rangers' longest-serving player, received an Easter surprise when he accepted his Mackinlay's Football Personality of the Month Award at Ibrox Stadium recently.

West of Scotland Sales Manager for Mackinlay's, Jim McKenzie, presented Colin with a cheque for £100 and a giant Easter Egg to match his giant bottle of whisky — for the Rangers defender to donate as a seasonal gift to a charity of his choice.

Colin, who headed Rangers' last-minute winning goal in the recent Scottish League Cup Final against Aberdeen, has given the giant 16lb egg to a children's home in Cathkin, Glasgow, for an Easter treat. He is pictured here with a group of delighted youngsters.

BIG PAT'S RETURN

WHEN Arsenal 'keeper Pat Jennings steps out at Wembley for Saturday's F.A. Cup Final v. Manchester United, he might well say to himself: "This is where I came in."

It was after a superlative Wembley display for Northern Ireland, in the 1963 European Youth Championship Final against England, that Pat, then with Newry Town, was snapped-up by Watford, who, only a year later, sold him to Tottenham for nearly £30,000.

Saturday's Cup Final outing will be perennial Jennings' fifth major club decider at Wembley, his first being Spurs' 2-1 1967 F.A. Cup win v. Chelsea. It will also be the Highbury idol's 15th big-time Wembley appearance at all levels, a record for an Irishman.

Looking at the brilliant Gunner's last eight Wembley visits, he's certainly due a change of luck.

In the first four, he was unbeaten as Spurs defeated Aston Villa and Norwich City in the 1971 and 1973 League Cup Finals, respectively. Ireland beat England, in '72, and "The Three" overcame "The Six" in the 1973 Common Market fixture. But, in the last four, Jennings suffered two 4-0 England drubbings, in 1976 and earlier this year, a 1-0 1974 defeat by England, and last term's Cup setback by Ipswich.

Is the wheel of soccer fortune about to change once more for superstar Pat — and Arsenal! — this time out?

CORK Alberts' Eire Under-21 international Redmond Lane could well be the next Irish player to join Manchester United.

SACKED

TOMMY CALLAGHAN, the former Celtic star, has been sacked by Galway Rovers after just one season in charge.

The club finished second from bottom in the Bass League of Ireland again this season and another Scot, Tommy McGrain has also been released.

Goalkeeper Tom Lally is acting as caretaker-boss on a short tour of the United States this month.

THE ever-improving Leicester centre-half Larry May (right) speaks volumes for the surprise decision of manager Jock Wallace to allow highly-rated defender Steve Sims to go to Watford for £200,000.

Birmingham-born May really took his chance when England Under-21 international Sims went down injured. Sims just could not get back into the side as May was given an extended run.

May, who was 20 last Boxing Day, only signed professional at Filbert Street in January, 1977, after playing for Warren Farm.

Now May just hopes that he can win some of the honours that have come the way of his boyhood hero — Gordon McQueen, the Manchester United and former Leeds and St Mirren centre-half, who has won full honours for his native Scotland.

MOORE PROBLEMS

INJURY has dealt another severe blow to the unlucky career of former Nottingham Forest, Manchester United and England winger Ian Moore.

Moore, now the player-manager of Southern League side Burton Albion, was hoping to re-build his career by spending the summer playing with New England Tea Men in the North American Soccer League.

He played three friendly games with the Tea Men last month, scoring two goals, but has now been sidelined by a broken bone in his right foot which, he says, seems likely to rule out a lucrative summer.

A suspect right ankle caused the popular winger to retire from the Football League when he was with Manchester United five seasons ago.

Injury also meant he missed out on a place in England's 1970 World Cup squad, after a highly promising first appearance against Holland earlier that year.

"It's unbelievable really," said a disappointed Moore. "Injury always seems to come at just the wrong time for me."



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I reckon it will be a very close Final — with possibly just one goal between the sides — and I think it will also be an exciting match.

Why Arsenal? History is on their side, although I'd have picked them anyway. The history books tell us that if a side loses a Final at Wembley, it will almost certainly make amends given the chance the following season.

United know this. They lost to Southampton — perhaps surprisingly — yet then returned to rob Liverpool of not just The Double, but The Treble in 1977.

Arsenal haven't forgotten last May when they were beaten by Ipswich. If they needed anything to motivate them this time, it's the memory of trooping off the Wembley pitch a year ago after their 1-0 defeat.

The Gunners lost for a variety of reasons. First, I take nothing away from Ipswich — who I tipped to win, anyway.

I think it's fair to say not every Arsenal player was 100 per cent fit last time. Liam Brady would probably admit he wasn't and it was to his credit he declared himself unfit for the Semi-Final against Wolves recently. Malcolm Macdonald was another who didn't seem to be firing on all cylinders.

Having said that, I believe most teams who play at Wembley "carry" a player or two. No one wants to miss out on what could be a once-

in-a-lifetime occasion. Had the Arsenal lads known last season they'd be back this year, maybe the make-up of their side would have been different.

I give Arsenal the edge because all-round they are marginally better than United. With this in mind, it may surprise you that in the games against Villa this season, United have impressed me more.

We had a marvellous tussle with United at Villa Park; leading 2-0, I thought we were home and dry, but United bounced back, to take a point.

Overall, though Arsenal have looked the better team.

On experience, there is nothing to choose between them. Both clubs have been to Wembley in recent years, with many players having played there for their countries, too.

It will be a big test for young Gary Bailey in the United goal. He's come through every test so far, and I remember people having doubts about Forest's Chris Wood in the 1978 League Cup Final against Liver-

**ANDY
GRAY**
Writes for you

"Andy Gray — Godfather... to the new arrival for Alex and Pat Cropley, their son Ross."





"Arsenal beat Forest by one goal in the Cup."

'Arsenal by the odd goal'

pool. He played a blinder!

Perhaps Arsenal have the slightly better back-four. They are less likely to make a mistake than their United counterparts.

There will be a real battle in midfield. It is vitally important for Arsenal that Liam Brady is fit. The

Irish schemer means a heck of a lot to The Gunners.

I doubt if United will put a close marker on him — if they do, he will probably be Brian Greenhoff.

Liam is so skilful he can easily lose a 'shadow'. United buzz in midfield and they will try to cut off Brady's

supply rather than mark him closely.

Steve Coppell and Micky Thomas drop back to help United in the middle of the park, and this area will be a vital one.

United's front men have hit form when it matters. Jimmy Greenhoff is a model professional, who never seems to age. He's so sharp and it's a shame he hasn't had more recognition.

Big Joe Jordan looks to be back to his best after injury, and the few goals he's knocked in will have boosted his confidence.

The pair seem to combine very well . . . the subtlety of Jimmy and the terror of Joe could cause problems for the Londoners.

Mind you, I like the Frank Stapleton/Alan Sunderland duo. Frank used to be over-shadowed by Malcolm Macdonald, but has proved he can score goals even without Supermac. Frank is thriving on the extra responsibility and looks a very good player, indeed.

Alan Sunderland is the main difference between the Arsenal of 1978 and now. His understanding with Frank is as good as you'll get from a pair of strikers, and I'll own up, I think Stapleton is more effective with Sunderland than Macdonald.

The Final will be a big tactical battle, with England coaches Dave Sexton and Don Howe masters of this particular game. Every player will know exactly what is expected of him, and personally, I can't wait for Saturday afternoon.

It's a shame so many genuine fans of both clubs will not be at Wembley. Okay, perhaps the Final IS a national event, but I'd still be inclined to distribute more tickets to the Finalists' real supporters. The average home gates of Arsenal and United would just about fill Wembley, so half of them will be disappointed.

I'll be watching the game from my home in Sutton Coldfield . . . and at about 4.45pm I expect Pat Rice to be holding the Cup aloft.

Join me again in two weeks when I'll be talking about the other big match at Wembley — England/Scotland.



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CREWE (1) 3 (Bowles 2, 1 pen., Nelson)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 3 (Fletcher 2, Holmes) 1,382
Crewe: Rafferty, Hughes, Dulson, Purdie, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Cheetham, Coyne, Warnock, Robertson (Nelson).
Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Sutton, Hanvey, Fletcher, Hart, Armstrong, Robins, Howey.

READING (2) 4 (Alexander 4)
GRIMSBY (0) 0 8,394
Reading: Death; Peters, White, Sanchez, Hicks, Bennett, Alexander, Hetzke, Kearney, Shipley, Lewis.
Grimsby: Batch; Moore (D.), Moore (K), Waters, Wiggington, Crombie, Broly, Ford, Liddell, Mitchell (Drinkell), Lester.

TORQUAY (2) 2 (Lawrence, Wilson)
DONCASTER (1) 1 (French pen.) 1,781
Torquay: Turner; Twitchin, Ritchie, Green, Payne, Dunne, Davies, Lawrence (Murphy), Cooper, Wilson, Coffill.
Doncaster: Peacock; Lister, Flanagan, Meagan, Bradley, Olney, Austin, French, Cox, Bentley, Pugh (Snodin).

WIGAN 0
HEREFORD 0 4,876
Wigan: Brown; Curtis, Smart, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Moore, Purdie (Brownbill).
Hereford: Hughes; Price, Burrows, Strong, Layton, Emery, White, Hendry, Powell, Gould, Stephens.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

CELTIC (2) 3 (Provan, Burns, Glavin)
MORTON (0) 0 16,000
Celtic: Latchford; McGrain, Fillipi, Aitken, McDonald, (McCluskey), Edvaldsson, Provan, Glavin, Lennox, Burns, Doyle.
Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, Thomson, McNeill, Miller (Scott), Hutchison, Tolnie, Ritchie.

HEARTS (1) 1 (Gibson)
HIBS (2) 2 (MacLeod, Callachan) 16,000
Hearts: Allan; Kidd, Black, Jeffries, Liddell, Craig, Gibson, Fraser, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson.
Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Rae, MacLeod, Campbell, Callachan, Higgins (Brown).

PARTICK (1) 1 (Melrose)
DUNDEE UTD (1) 2 (Fleming, Kirkwood) 4,000
Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, Marr, Gibson, Houston, Sommer (O'Hara), McAdam, Melrose, Park.
Dundee Utd: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Robinson, Hegarty, Narey, Phillip (Addison), Sturrock, Dodds, Fleming, Kirkwood.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

FIRST DIVISION

EVERTON (0) 2 (Lyons 2)
NORWICH (1) 2 (Reeves 2) 28,825
Everton: Wood; Todd, Heard, Lyons, Wright, Ross, Higgins (Barton), Dobson, King, Telfer, Thomas.

Norwich: Hansbury; Symonds, Davies, Bond, Hoadley, Powell, Neighbour, Reeves, Robson, Paddon, McGuire.

THIRD DIVISION

TRANMERE (0) 1 (Evans)
SOUTHEND (0) 2 (Polycarpou, Pountney) 1,250
Tranmere: Johnson; Flood Mathias, Parry, Bramhall, Evans, Craven (Thomas), O'Neill, err, Postlewhite, McAuley.
Southend: Cawston; Moody, Yates (Pountney), Stead, Hadley, Cusack, Morris, Polycarpou, Parker, Dudley, Laverick.

FOURTH DIVISION

BARNLEY (0) 1 (Graham)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Davey) 12,928
Barnley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Clarke (Riley), Graham, Millar, Bell.
Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Milligan, Denyer, Foster, Davey, Hemmerman, Wilson, Garwood, Showers, Bryant.

STOCKPORT (0) 0
TORQUAY (0) 1 (Davies) 2,710
Stockport: Lawson; Thorpe, Rutter, Edwards, Smith, Armstrong (Prudham), Henson, Summerbee, Bradd, Halford, Lee.
Torquay: Turner; Twitchin, Ritchie, Green, Darke, Dunne, Davies, Lawrence, Coope, Wilson, Coffill.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

F.A. CUP

Semi-Finals

LIVERPOOL (1) 2 (Dalglish, Hansen)
MAN. UTD (1) 2 (Jordan, Greenhoff (B)) 52,584
Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Hughes, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Johnson, Case (Heighway), McDermott, Souness.
Man. U: Bailey; Nicholl, Albiston, McLroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Jordan, Greenhoff (B), Thomas.

WOLVES (0) 0
ARSENAL (0) 2 (Stapleton, Sunderland) 46,244
Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer (Patching), Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbit, Daley, Rafferty, Richards, Carr.
Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Gattin, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.

FIRST DIVISION

BRISTOL C (1) 2 (Meyer, Garland)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Gallagher) 15,584
Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Cooper, Gpw, Rodgers, Hunter, Mann, Ritchie, Royle (Garland), Mabbutt, Meyer.
Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher, Tarantini, Ainscow, Broadhurst, Givens (Calderwood), Dillon, Barrowclough.

IPSWICH (2) 2 (Geddis, Brazil)
MAN. CITY (0) 1 (Silkman) 20,773
Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thissen, Butcher, Beattie, Wark, Muhren, Geddis (Lambert), Brazil, Woods.
Man. C: Corrigan; Ranson, Power, Reid, Watson, Henry (Futcher R), Channon, Owen, Silkman, Hartford, Barnes.

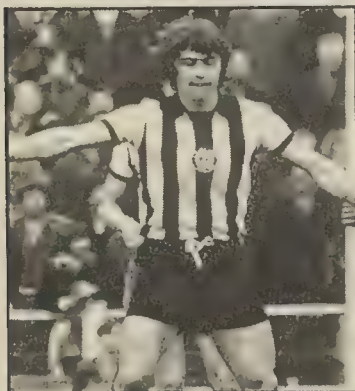
MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 (Proctor)
TOTTENHAM (0) 0 19,172
Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Hodgson, Proctor, Ashcroft, Burns, Armstrong.
Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, McAllister, Holmes, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles (Lee), Jones, Hoddle, Villa.

NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 (Francis)
BOLTON (1) 1 (Gowling) 29,015
Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Bowyer, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Francis, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.
Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Whatmore, Gowling, Worthington, Smith.

Q.P.R. (2) 2 (Goddard, Walsh)
DERBY (1) 2 (Crawford, Daly) 13,988
Q.P.R.: Richardson; Clement, Gillard (Busby), Hollins, Howe, Roeder, Shanks, Francis, Walsh, Bowles, Goddard.
Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Daly, McFarland, Wicks, Carter (Hill), Powell, Greenwood, Moreland, Crawford.

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Waldron 2)
LEEDS (1) 2 (Hawley 2) 21,805
Southampton: Wells; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hayes, Holmes, Baker.

RESULTS... SCORERS... TEAM LINE-UPS



Irving Nattrass scored Newcastle's first goal in their 3-1 win at Oldham.

Leeds: Harvey; Hird, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Gray (E), Hankin, Hawley, Currie, Graham.

SECOND DIVISION

BRIGHTON 0 NOTTS CO 0

21,398

Brighton: Steele; Cattlin, Williams, Sayer, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan, Ward (Poskett), Chivers, Clark, O'Sullivan.

Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Blockley, Stubbs, Mann, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Hunt, Vinter.

BURNLEY (1) 1 (Robinson) CAMBRIDGE (0) 1 (Biley)

8,162

Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Robinson, Thomson, Jakub, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon (Morley), James.

Cambridge: Webster; Graham, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Buckley (Garner), Christie, Spriggs, Murray, Finney, Biley.

C. PALACE (2) 2 (Smillie, Walsh) CARDIFF (0) 0

18,672

Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Smillie, Walsh (Sealey).

Cardiff: Healey; Roberts, Sullivan, Campbell, Pontin, Dwyer, Grapes (Lewis), Bishop, Evans, Moore, Stevens.

FULHAM (1) 3 (Kitchen, Davies, Evans) CHARLTON (0) 1 (Hales)

6,955

Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Lock, Money, Gale, Davies, Margerison, Guthrie, Kitchen, Beck.

Charlton: Wood; Shaw, Campbell, Shipperley, Berry, Powell, Hales, Peacock, Madden, Churchouse (Booth).

OLDHAM (1) 1 (Heaton) NEWCASTLE (1) 3 (Nattrass, Shoulder pen., Withe)

6,329

Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Edwards, Keegan, Hicks, Hurst, Heaton, Halom, Stainrod, Chapman, Gardner.

Newcastle: Hardwick; Brownlie, Nattrass, Martin, Bird, Blackley, Shoulder, Cassidy, Withe, Hibbit, Connolly.

PRESTON (0) 1 (Coleman) ORIENT (0) 1 (Moore)

9,494

Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Doyle (Thomson), Baxter, O'Riordan, Cochrane, Haslegrave, Coleman, Potts, Bruce.

Orient: Jackson; Grealish, Fisher, Banjo, Gray (N), Went, Chiedozi, Hughton, Moores, Clarke, Coates.

SHEFF. UTD (0) 1 (Anderson) BRISTOL R (0) 0

14,064

Sheff. U: Conroy; Speight, Tibbott, Kenworthy, McPhail, Rioch, Matthews, Anderson, Finnieston, Sabella, Hamson.

Bristol R: Thomas; Jones, Bater, Aitken, Taylor, Prince (Hendrie), Dennehy, Williams, White, Staniforth, Emmanuel.

STOKE (1) 1 (O'Callaghan) BLACKBURN (1) 2 (Craig, Brotherston)

17,020

Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson (Busby).

Blackburn: Ramsbottom; Rathbone, Bailey, Coughlin, Parkin, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Fowler, Craig, Parkes, McKenzie.

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Rostron) LUTON (0) 0

23,358

Sunderland: Siddall; Whitworth, Bolton (Brown), Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, Buckley, Entwistle, Lee, Rostron.

Luton: Findlay; Stephens, Price, Donaghy, Phillips-Masters, Birchenall, Hill, West, Taylor, Hatton (Carr), Stein.

WEST HAM (0) 1 (Robson) LEICESTER (0) 1 (Henderson)

23,992

West Ham: Parkes; Lampard, Brush, McDowell (Curbishley), Martin, Bonds, Holland, Devonshire, Cross, Pike, Robson.

Leicester: Wallington; Goodwin, Rofe, Williams, O'Neill, May, Peake, Kelly, Henderson, Buchanan (Ridley), Smith.

Postponed: Millwall v Wrexham.

THIRD DIVISION

BRENTFORD (0) 3 (McNichol 2, Phillips) BLACKPOOL (2) 2 (Weston 2)

6,360

Brentford: Bond; Salman (Allder), Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Carlton, Shrubbs, Smith, McCulloch, Phillips.

Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, Ronson, Suddaby, McEwan, Kellow, Kerr, Spence, Wilson (Jones), Weston.

BURY (0) 3 (Ritson, Wilson, Taylor) SHREWSBURY (0) 0

3,340

Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy (Stanton), Lugg, Ritson, Tucker, Whitehead, Gregory, Beamish, Wilson, Taylor.

Shrewsbury: Wardle; Larkin, Leonard, Cross, Griffin, Keay, Birch, Atkins, Tong (Roberts), Beggins, Lindsay.

CHESTER (0) 1 (Edwards) MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Austin)

2,205

Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Walker (Raynor), Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Jones, Livermore, Edwards, Henderson, Phillips.

Mansfield: New; Dawkins, Foster (B), Curtis, Saxby, Bird, Carter, Austin, Allen (Wood), Hamilton, Martin.

CHESTERFIELD 0 WALSALL 0

3,332

Chesterfield: Letheran; Flavell, Proppett, O'Neill, Cottam, Heppollette, Kowalski, Moss, Fern (Simpson), Salmons, Walker.

Walsall: Turner; Macken, Caswell, Jones, Serella, Sbragia, Birch, Waddington (Williams), Syrett, McDonough, Penn.

EXETER (0) 2 (Randell, Sims) ROTHERHAM (0) 0

3,349

Exeter: Main; Templeman, Hore, Randell, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Pearson (Rogers), Sims, Bowker, Hatch.

Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Carr, Crawford.

GILLINGHAM (2) 2 (White, Westwood) SWINDON (2) 2 (Mayes, Carter)

9,460

Gillingham: Hillyard; Young, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Hughes, Nicholl, White, Price, Westwood, Funnell.

Swindon: Allan; Hamilton (Trollope), Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Mayes, Rowland, Kamara.

HULL 0 LINCOLN 0

4,103

Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, Skipper, Roberts, Croft, Haigh, Hawker, Horswill (Stewart), Edwards, Bannister, Galvin.

Lincoln: Grotier; Hubbard, Laybourne, Fleming, Cross, Smith, Guest, Ward, Sunley, Harford, Cockerill.

OXFORD (2) 5 (Berry 2, McGrogan, Sweetzer) CARLISLE (0) 1 (Kemp)

3,439

Oxford: Burton; Taylor, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Hodgson (Sweetzer), McGrogan, Jeffrey, Berry, Seacole, Duncan.

Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, Macdonald, Tait, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Ludlam, Lumby (McLean), Kemp.

PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Robson) COLCHESTER (1) 2 (Gough, Allinson)

3,559

Peterborough: Waugh; Carmichael, Styles, Doyle, Smith, Ross, Sharkey, Guy, Cooke, Anderson (Cliss), Robson.

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wright, Hodge, Wignall, Packer, Foley, Gough, Dyer, Allinson, Lee.

SWANSEA (0) 2 (Stevenson, Waddle) PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Megson)

11,412

Swansea: Crudgington; Smith, Bartley, Phillips, Stevenson, Charles (Boersma), Attley, James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.

Plymouth: Hodge; McNeill, Harrison, Uzzell (Trussion), James, Clarke, Johnson, Fear, Binney, Megson, Rogers.

WATFORD (0) 1 (Pollard) SHEFF. WED. (0) 0

15,394

Watford: Rankin; Stirk, Pritchett, Booth (Mercer), Bolton, Garner, Pollard, Blissett, Jenkins, Joslyn, Train.

Sheff. W: Turner; Shirliff, Grant, Pickering, Smith, Mullen, Wyde (Curran), Porterfield, Lowey, Johnson, Hornsby.

FOURTH DIVISION

BRADFORD C. 0 DARLINGTON 0

2,643

Bradford C: Smith; Reaney, Wood, Dolan, Baines, Middleton, Johnson, Bates (Jackson), Robertson, McNiven, Hutchins.

Darlington: Burleigh; Nattrass, Cochrane, Hedley, Craig, Hague, Lyons, Wann, Ferguson, Peachey, Walsh.

DONCASTER (0) 0 GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Ford)

4,707

Doncaster: Peacock; Lister, Flanagan, Meagan, Bradley, Olney (Snodin), Pugh, Cox, French, Bentley, Austin.

Grimsbey: Batch; Moore (D), Moore (K), Waters, Wigginton, Crombie, Brolly, Ford, Liddell (Drinkell), Lester, Cumming.

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 (Robins, Holmes) HARTLEPOOL (0) 0

2,420

Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Harvey, Sutton, Fletcher, Hart, Armstrong, Robins, Bielby (Smith).

Hartlepool: Richardson; Smith (G), Gorry, Lawrence, Goldthorpe, Norton, Linacre, Hogan, Houchen, Crumplin, Harding.

NEWPORT (1) 2 (Burton, Vaughan) HALIFAX (0) 0

3,927

Newport: Plumley; Walden, Relish, Davies, Oakes, Bruton, Bailey, Lowdes (Vaughan), Goddard, Tynan, Moore.

Halifax: Kilner; Hutt, Dunleavy, Smith, Trainer, Sidebottom, Firth, Kennedy, Campbell, Johnson, Loska.

NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Robertson) ROCHDALE (0) 0

1,653

Northampton: Jayes; Geidmintis, Mead, Matthews, Robertson, Saunders, Farrington, Williams, Froggatt, Reilly, McCaffrey.

Rochdale: Felgate; Hart, Taylor, Bannon, Snookes, Scaife (Hilditch), Hoy, O'Loughlin, Jones, Owen, Esser.

READING 0 PORT VALE 0

6,503

Reading: Death; Peters, White, Sanchez, Hicks, Bennett, Alexander, Hetzke (Kearns), Kearney, Shipley, Lewis.

Port Vale: Dacey; Hawkins, Griffiths, Beech, Delgado, Bentley, Sinclair, Farrell, Wright, Todd, Healy.

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 CREWE (1) 1 (Nelson)

1,868

Scunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Peacock, Oates, Deere, Hall, Grimes, Kilmore, Earl, Kavanagh, Couch.

Crewe: Rogan; Hughes, Dulson, Purdie, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Cheetham, Coyne, Nelson, Warnock.

WIGAN (1) 1 (Houghton) BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0

5,527

Wigan: Brown; Curtis, Smart, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Moore, Houghton, Purdie.

Bournemouth: Allen; Butler (G), Ferns, Miller, Brown (R), Borthwick, Holder, MacDougall, Butler (M), Lennard, Massey.

WIMBLEDON (1) 2 (Cork, Leslie) HEREFORD (0) 0

2,636

Wimbledon: Goddard; Perkins, Haverson, Briley, Galvin, Cunningham, Leslie, Galliers, Knowles, Cork, Parsons (Denny).

Hereford: Hughes; Price (Thomas), Burrows, Strong, Layton, Emery, Stephens, Hendry, White, Powell, Gould.

YORK (0) 1 (McDonald) ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Needham)

2,110

York: Neenan; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Loggie, McDonald, Staniforth.

Aldershot: Johnson; Edwards, Howitt, Dixon, Wooler (Hooper), Jopling, Crosby, Longhorn, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Davidson) RANGERS (0) 2 (MacDonald, Jackson)

at Hampden Park 54,000

Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McClelland, McMaster, Rougvie, Miller, Strachan, Archibald, Harper, Jarvie, Davidson (McLeish).

Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Dawson, Johnstone, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Urquhart (Miller), Smith, Cooper (Parlane).

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

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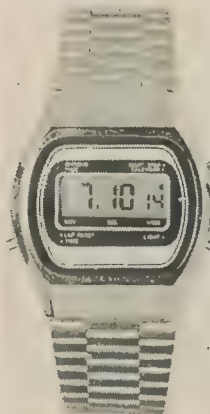


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Eintracht Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
BAHRAIN	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEEDS Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEEDS Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
WALES Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SAUDI ARABIA	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SHEFFIELD Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEICESTER Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEICESTER Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
WEST HAM Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
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STEWART: Thank you, Derek, I read your column in the magazine every fortnight. But I'm going to upset you now. Hibs are going to win the Scottish Cup!

JOHNSTONE: That sounds like fighting talk to me. Do you have anything to back it up?

STEWART: Of course! Obviously you haven't seen us in the Cup this season, but I can assure you we have earned our place in this Final. Now we are at Hampden we do not intend returning to Edinburgh empty handed.

JOHNSTONE: Rangers are the holders of the trophy and there is just no way we are going to allow that piece of silverware to leave Ibrox.

STEWART: How do you see the game going, Derek?

JOHNSTONE: It's going to be very tight. I don't think we will give you much room and I don't think you will allow us much scope.

STEWART: Well, at least I can agree it's going to be very, very tight at Hampden. It will be a test of nerves in the opening stages.

JOHNSTONE: Taking a look at your team, George, it doesn't suggest you have very experienced players except possibly for yourself and a couple of others.

STEWART: That's true, but it hasn't stopped our younger players getting to this Final. After all, you've got to start somewhere, haven't you? Look at your own position with Rangers. You were only 16 when you played in the League Cup Final against Celtic and it did not prevent you from scoring the only goal of the game.

JOHNSTONE: Okay, point taken. But do you think the big-game atmosphere will put any pressure on the younger players?

STEWART: It might do, Derek, or it might help them raise their game, it's as simple as that. Certainly it could be the biggest crowd most of them have played in front of.

JOHNSTONE: Rangers players are used to vast crowds, of course, and this will probably help us settle before you do.

STEWART: Maybe, Derek, but our manager, Eddie Turnbull, has the habit of surprising rivals with his team selections and tactics.

JOHNSTONE: I must interrupt and say although John Greig may be in his first season as a team-boss he is extremely knowledgeable and because he has always played for a big time club such as Rangers it means he is used to the grand settings and tense atmosphere.

STEWART: I agree John has done a fine job for Rangers, but on the actual playing side I would say the

midfield will hold the key to this game. That's where it could be won or lost. Personally, I'm quite confident our midfield can win that battle.

JOHNSTONE: I doubt whether Tommy McLean, Bobby Russell and Alex MacDonald would agree with you there. For my money they are one of the best midfield trios in Britain.

STEWART: Why stop there?

JOHNSTONE: Okay, in Europe! And I'm sure they will prove me right against Hibs.

STEWART: Our midfield has been immense in our Cup matches, especially the ties against our old Edinburgh rivals Hearts and Aberdeen.

JOHNSTONE: Hibs are always hard to beat. By the way, what happened in that League match against Partick Thistle at Firhill recently?

STEWART: A nice piece of pre-match psychology, but you can forget it. The record book says we lost 6-1 and that's all there is to it. With the exception of Arthur Dun-



'Yes, and ours is the best in Europe'

DEREK JOHNSTONE
(Rangers)

can it was our reserve team's back-four that played against Thistle and everything the Firhill boys hit at our goal went in. It's as simple as that.

JOHNSTONE: However, it couldn't have done your morale any good.

STEWART: Now you are clutching at straws. The boss changed the side because the game had little real value for us as far as the League was concerned at the time. Mr. Turnbull brought in some younger players to give them a run but it didn't go right on the night.

JOHNSTONE: Who is clutching at straws? I was simply stating a fact. I know it will have no bearing on the outcome at Hampden, but it is interesting to know six goals can find their way into your net.

STEWART: There you go again.

JOHNSTONE: Okay, I'll lay off. Is there anyone from Rangers you will be watching particularly closely?

STEWART: Yes, all of them! Seriously Gordon Smith is running into form at the moment.

JOHNSTONE: Don't forget he scored a lovely goal against you at Ibrox earlier in the season to give us a 1-0 victory.

STEWART: I'm not forgetting, but lightning is unlikely to strike twice in this case.

JOHNSTONE: Gordon Smith might think otherwise.

STEWART: That's his entitlement, of course. I don't think, though, that one individual will run the show at Hampden. It's going to be too hard-fought for that to happen.

JOHNSTONE: Actually I've always found our games fairly close and I've also discovered that your lads never give an inch without a fight.

STEWART: Well, that would make for a cracking Final and obviously we both want to serve up a match to fit the occasion. I'm certain Hibs can entertain ... and win, although there may be only one goal in it.

JOHNSTONE: Funnily enough, I was just thinking the same about Rangers! Anyway, any last thoughts, George?

STEWART: Yes, may the best team win ... so long as it is Hibs and I'm quite sure it will be.

JOHNSTONE: If there are any last minute winners to be scored they'll be scored by us. What we did to Aberdeen in the League Cup Final we can do to Hibs in the Scottish Cup Final.

ROADS TO HAMPDEN

RANGERS

Third Round v. Motherwell (h) 3-1 Johnstone, Jackson, Cooper

Fourth Round v. Kilmarnock (h) 1-1 MacDonald (replay) v. Kilmarnock (a) 1-0 Urquhart

Fifth Round v. Dundee (h) 6-3 Jardine, MacDonald, Cooper, Russell, Forsyth, Smith

Semi-Final v. Partick (at Hampden Park) 0-0 (replay) v. Partick (at Hampden Park) 1-0 Johnstone

HIBERNIAN

Third Round v. Dunfermline (a) 1-1 Higgins

(replay) v. Dunfermline (h) 2-0 MacLeod, Callaghan

Fourth Round v. Meadowbank (a)* 6-0 MacLeod 2, Higgin, Duncan, Brazil, Callaghan

Fifth Round v. Hearts (h) 2-1 Stewart, Rae

Semi-Final v. Aberdeen (at Hampden Park) 2-1 Rae, MacLeod pen.

* Played at Easter Road, Hibernian.

RANGERS RETAIN LEAGUE CUP

RANGERS won the Scottish League Cup for a record tenth time. It was a Final full of incident, with a sending-off, a daft goal and a last-gasp winner from the oldest player on the pitch. Rangers for the Treble again? It's looking that way. And once again The Dons have slipped up at the final hurdle, failing to break the Glasgow domination of Scottish soccer. Here's how Rangers won the League Cup.



Aberdeen pay the price for slack marking and Colin Jackson (number five) heads home the winner in injury time.



Rangers captain Derek Johnstone holds the League Cup proudly.



Rangers' other goalscorer Alex MacDonald dives to cause panic in The Dons' defence.



Rangers' Alex MacDonald and Partick's Ian Gibson tussle for possession



Colin Jackson is grounded as Jim Melrose heads towards the Rangers goal

HIBS AND HOLDERS GET THROUGH



Aberdeen keeper John Gardiner dives to save as Hibs' George Stewart runs in

HIBERNIAN'S 2-1 victory over Aberdeen meant there could be no repeat of this season's League Cup Final in the Scottish Cup, but Rangers had to fight hard for their 1-0 replay win over Glasgow neighbours Partick Thistle. It promises to be a fascinating Final, with Hibs looking for their third Scottish Cup success and Rangers their 23rd.



Gordon Rae's first goal for Hibernian sets them on their way to the Final

ALTHOUGH Hibernian have met Celtic in four of their five Cup Final appearances this will be the first time they have been pitted against Rangers in this stage of the competition. Compare this with the fact Rangers and Hibernian have met 22 times (including replays) in Scottish Cup-ties and The Gers have appeared in 34 Finals, and the knowledge these two clubs have so far never met in the Final is even more surprising.

More defeats

APART from Celtic and Rangers with their record number of Cup Final appearances Hibernian have suffered more defeats than any other club — seven losses in nine Finals.

Enjoyable match

HIBERNIAN first captured the Scottish Cup in 1887 when they beat Dumbarton 2-1 at Crosshills, Glasgow. In their next appearance in the Final they met local rivals, Hearts, at Logie Green, Edinburgh, and were beaten 3-1.

Back-heeled winner

HIBS only other win in the Scottish Cup came in their next appearance in 1902. They had the satisfaction of beating Rangers 2-0 at Ibrox in the Semi-Final and then Celtic 1-0 in the Final at Parkhead.

Celtic upset

THE nearest Hibernian have been to winning the trophy in six Finals since that last victory was probably in 1914 when at Ibrox they caused a big upset by holding Celtic to a goalless draw. Celtic won the replay 4-1.

Disaster

HIBERNIAN'S last appearance in the Cup Final was a disaster for they were beaten 6-1 by Celtic. That was in 1972 when the score equalled the record set up by Renton when defeating Cambuslang 6-1 in 1888.

Overwhelmed

IN the 1972 Final Hibernian were 2-1



Met 22 times in Cup-ties

1927-28	S.F.	Rangers won	3-0	Tynecastle
1946-47	2nd Rnd	Rangers won	1-0	Ibrox Park
1947-48	S.F.	Rangers won	1-0	Hampden
1950-51	2nd Rnd	Hibernian won	3-2	Ibrox Park
1957-58	S.F.	Hibernian won (after 2-2 draw)	2-1	Hampden
1959-60	4th Rnd	Rangers won	3-2	Ibrox Park
1964-65	3rd Rnd	Hibernian won	2-1	Easton Road
1968-69	1st Rnd	Rangers won	1-0	Ibrox Park
1969-70	1st Rnd	Rangers won	3-1	Ibrox Park
1970-71	S.F.	Rangers won (after 0-0 draw)	2-1	Hampden
1971-72	S.F.	Hibernian won (after 1-1 draw)	2-0	Hampden
1972-73	4th Rnd	Rangers won (after 1-1 draw)	2-1	Ibrox Park

down at the interval but were overwhelmed in the second-half when Dixie Deans completed his hat-trick. It will be remembered that on that occasion Hibs were a goal down in only two minutes with Billy McNeill setting Celtic on the road to victory.

Survivor Duncan

ONLY one of the Hibernian team in that Cup Final likely to be in their side against Rangers, is Arthur Duncan, who was on the left-wing in 1972 but who has since switched to the defence.

This could be Arthur Duncan's sixth Scottish Cup-tie for Hibs against Rangers. So far in these games he has been on the losing side only twice, with Hibernian winning once and the other two being drawn.

Here is a complete list of results of games between Rangers and Hibernian in the Scottish Cup.

1895-96	3rd Rnd	Hibernian won	3-2	Ibrox Park
1896-97	1st Rnd	Rangers won	3-0	Ibrox Park
1901-02	S.F.	Hibernian won	2-0	Ibrox Park
1903-04	2nd Rnd	Rangers won	2-1	Edinburgh
1913-14	3rd Rnd	Hibernian won	2-1	Edinburgh
1923-24	3rd Rnd	Hibernian won	2-1	Ibrox Park

It is interesting to note from the above list of results that despite the remarkable superiority enjoyed by Rangers in the Scottish Cup, which must certainly be among the best record of any club in any national Cup competition, Hibernian have more than held their own against the mighty Glasgow club, and, indeed, there is very little to choose between them. The summary of their Cup meetings reads as follows:— P.22, Rangers won 10, Hibernian won 8, drawn 4. Rangers 33 goals, Hibernian 28 goals.

It is also worth noting that on each of the last three occasions these two sides have met each other in the competition their first game has resulted in a draw.

Rangers biggest Cup win over Hibernian is 3-0 at Ibrox in 1897 and 3-0 at Tynecastle in 1928. Hibernian's biggest winning margin is 2-0 at Ibrox in 1902 and 2-0 at Hampden Park in 1972.

Summary

RANGERS Scottish Cup record is so remarkable it would take much more

space than is available here to run through it in much detail. However here are just a few facts to be going on with.

Rangers summary of games in the Cup Final:— P47, W22, D15, L10 (plus another occasion when the trophy was awarded to their opponents because Rangers refused to play), goals for 74, goals against 43.

After losing 2-0 to Kilmarnock in 1929 Rangers were undefeated in their next 14 Scottish Cup Finals before losing 4-0 to Celtic in 1969. In those 14 Finals (20 games in all including replays) they conceded only eight goals and never more than one in a game!

The only player to score a hat-trick against Rangers in the Cup Final was Jimmy Quinn. Certainly one of the finest centre-forwards Celtic have ever possessed, he scored all of their goals in a 3-2 victory at Hampden Park in the 1904 Final.

Rangers have not lost a Scottish Cup-tie since they were beaten with a solitary goal by Lynch the Celtic defender (scored from the penalty spot) in the Final two years ago, but this run is by no means a Rangers record.

When considering Rangers finest Cup runs we strike a remarkable coincidence in relation to their opponents in this year's Final. One wonders if this could be significant? Their two finest runs were both halted by Hibernian!

After losing 5-2 to Motherwell in a replayed Third Round tie in 1960-61 Rangers played 22 Cup-ties without defeat before going to Easter Road in the Third Round of 1964-65 and losing 2-1 to Hibs.

Rangers second finest Cup run commenced with 1-0 First Round victory over Stranraer at Stair Park in season 1947-48 and they were unbeaten in a run of 21 ties before Hibernian came to Ibrox Park for the Second Round of 1950-51 and won 3-2.

Rangers have played more drawn games in the Scottish Cup Final than any other club — 14. Celtic are next with ten, followed by Vale of Leven with five.

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the finest team in the country.

It was hardly surprising that Turnbull became the boss of Hibs. He had been one of their greatest players, a proud member of the illustrious Famous Five forward-line of the Fifties.

Turnbull, who had quit as trainer of Hibs in 1963 to take over as manager of Queen's Park, spent two years at Hampden before going to Pittodrie for six years and helping them to a 3-1 Scottish Cup Final victory over mighty Celtic in 1970.

Paying out modest fees, Turnbull built a new side at Easter Road.

A year later he guided the team to the Scottish Cup Final at Hampden against Celtic.

to take the game into extra-time!

Again the Hibs boss remained cool. In the talk-in before the start of the extra 30 minutes period he modified the tactics — and Hibs went on to win 5-3.

A year later they repeated the feat over Celtic in the Drybrough Cup Final.

Celtic and Hibs and Jock Stein and Eddie Turnbull must have been fed up facing each other in Finals at Hampden around this period, for the rivals clashed again in the League Cup Final and the occasion marked Hibs' first major trophy win in 20 years.

That result gave Hibs the confidence and the determination to go for the League Championship, a prize that has still eluded Turnbull.

HIBS' EDDIE TURNBULL—CONDUCTS AN IRON RULE

IT was like a scene from a Hollywood spy thriller. A private room had been booked in the hotel at the famous St. Andrews golf course for a meeting between two men, neither of whom wanted to be identified.

It was strictly hush-hush and one of the men wore dark glasses to aid him in his search for anonymity. Difficult to believe even in today's secret service soccer world, but this was the setting from which a new era in Hibs' proud history was to be launched.

The man in the dark glasses was Eddie Turnbull, then the manager of Aberdeen. The man he was

meeting was Tom Hart, the new Easter Road supremo. The date was July 11, 1971.

Everything must have gone well in the talks because, the following day, the veil of secrecy was discarded and Hibs announced they had a new manager as Aberdeen received official notification from Turnbull that he was resigning from Pittodrie.

In the eight years Turnbull has been in charge of the team at Easter Road things have certainly happened.

Yet Turnbull, a fearsome character when aroused, has stuck doggedly to the task of making Hibs

Amazingly, a team that only lost one Cup goal in five games suddenly collapsed at the seams and were thrashed 6-1.

Turnbull offered no excuses.

One season later they clashed with Celtic in another gigantic 'Battle of the Greens' at Hampden. This time it was in the sponsored Drybrough Cup Final and Hibs, playing at a fast pace, were leading 3-0 into the second-half when the Parkhead fighters came back off the ropes and scored three goals

Turnbull is far too experienced to make rash predictions before the Cup Final against Rangers.

Looking at his team candidly Turnbull says: "This is not a great side, but difficult to beat."

"They play as a team and it is because of this team-work that they are in this final. I believe this young side is on the verge of great things."

Turnbull rarely makes extravagant observations he has no hope of fulfilling.

SETTING records is nothing new to John Greig, the Rangers manager who admits his haul of medals and trophies are under lock and key in a bank vault!

Surely, though, he must have set some sort of world record when he picked up a trophy this season — after being a manager for only THREE hours.

Greig's first match in charge of the team in a competitive game was against Hearts at Ibrox in the Tennent-Caledonian Cup. They won that game on the Saturday to progress into the Final the following day against Southampton and, after only 180 minutes as a boss, picked up that Cup when Lawrie McMenemy's side were slaughtered 4-1 in the August sunshine.

Greig knows Saturday's Final against Hibs will be extremely dif-

national ground as a boss — the first two being the previous season while he was still in charge of Aberdeen and took them to the Scottish Cup Semi-Final and Final.

The emotion of an Old Firm match might have got to the two young and inexperienced managers, but they showed their maturity in extreme circumstances. Celtic took the lead through Johnny Doyle, then had Tommy Burns ordered off before Rangers equalised with a penalty through Sandy Jardine.

Rangers' Alex Miller was sent-off in the second-half. Then Celtic went ahead through Tom McAdam. Colin Jackson equalised seven minutes from time, but Rangers' Derek Johnstone won it in extra time with a mis-hit shot

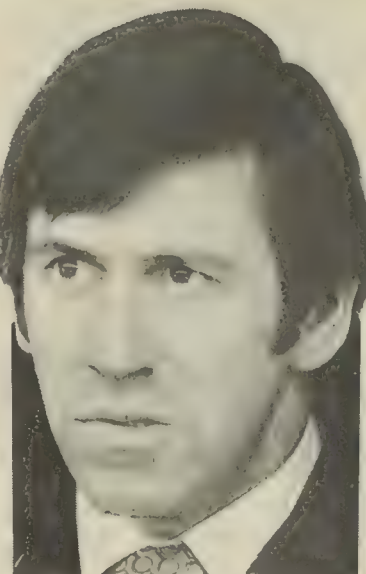
"It's not luck you know. My players know that I will not tolerate anything less than total commitment to their job."

"I'll quite happily settle for goals in the last minute, thank you. Let's face it, if you score a goal in the opening minute of a match you give the other side 89 minutes in which to hit back."

"If you get one in the last minute there's not much time left to do anything about it, is there?"

Undoubtedly Greig would settle for a last-minute winner against Hibs, but, probably just as important to the Ibrox boss, he will want to see good football from his side.

Rangers have been recognised more in the past for their brawn than their brain and Greig wants them to lose that image. Certainly the critics have seen a new



RANGERS' JOHN GREIG—WON EVERYTHING AS A PLAYER

ficult. It will be his fifth visit to the Hampden dug-out in eight months.

Greig led his team to a League Cup Final win this season after a nail-biting Semi-Final against Celtic.

Sitting across from Greig in the Hampden dug-out was his old rival and friend Billy McNeill, making only his third visit to Scotland's

that cannoned off the legs of Jim Casey into the net.

Greig and McNeill looked physically drained after the match. It had been a dramatic, frantic affair.

"People have made quite a lot about us scoring goals later in a game," says Greig. "So what? A game is over 90 minutes and we are obviously a team that goes flat-out all the way."

Rangers in that sense this season although Greig has added only one player — Billy Urquhart — to last season's squad.

Soccer riches are not new to Greig. He played for his country 44 times and captained them in a lot of those matches. He won a European Cup Winners' Cup medal in '72 when Rangers beat Moscow Dynamo 3-2. He picked up five

League Championship badges, six Scottish Cup Winners medals and four League Cup Winners medals. Add to that countless other bits and pieces and silverware trophies and you will see why Greig has to lock his precious mementoes away in a safe place.

But with a smile he says: "There's room for plenty more you know..."

LOSING SEMI-FINALISTS ASSESS THE TEAMS THAT BEAT THEM

BOBBY HOUSTON (Partick Thistle)

looks at RANGERS

I'VE got a warning for Hibs this week — Rangers' just do not know when to give up!

Honestly, when you play against them you know you have to go the entire 90 minutes. They proved that conclusively against us in the Semi-Final.

After a goalless draw in the first game it looked as though we were heading for extra-time when, with only minutes left to go, Derek Johnstone knocked in the only goal.

That is a main Rangers strength, obviously. They are a powerful unit with the emphasis on teamwork.

There are so many players in the Ibrox line-up who impress me. I voted for their midfielder Alex MacDonald in the Player of the Year ballot.

Sandy Jardine is another "typical" Rangers player, who plays every game with grim determina-

tion. He doesn't give an inch.

Goalkeeper Peter McCloy has had his critics in recent seasons, but Partick Thistle certainly never find it easy sticking goals past him. In three League games and two Cup games this season we managed only one goal against him.

He's an awkward looking character because of his mammoth size.

Big Colin Jackson rarely gets praise at the back, but the team really miss him when he is out.

It looks as though Ally Dawson will be lining up at left-back. He is a solid tackler and, like Jardine, likes to race into attack whenever he sees the opportunity.

With Tom Forsyth out through injury, Rangers may play Sandy Jardine as sweeper. If he does that may leave the way open for utility player Alex Miller to play in the number two jersey and cover the right hand side of the defence.



Miller has been at Ibrox for about ten years now, but, for one reason or another, has never been a first team regular.

Derek Johnstone can score vital goals irrespective of which number is on his jersey.

Tommy McLean provides him with a good service and the wide open spaces of Hampden obvi-

ously suit his game. McLean is a matchwinner.

Bobby Russell, a smooth midfielder, puts the accent on skill. If you give him space and time he'll murder you.

A team of workers, power and no little skill. I've got a lot of respect for both teams, but Rangers have the edge.



NO one will convince me that Aberdeen shouldn't be lining up in the Final. Hibs will be there in our place, however, and, without detracting from their 2-1 Semi-Final victory over us, I thought the least we deserved was a replay.

Anyway, having got that off my chest I must say that this present Easter Road side is a fine unit with a collection of players who are as fit as they come.

The strength of Hibs in defence is the pairing of George Stewart and Jackie McNamara.

When these players are on their game there seems little way through. I grabbed Aberdeen's goal in the Semi-Final when I caught both players on the hop. Jim McArthur pushed out a shot from Ian Scanlon and before he had time to recover I was in there to hit the ball over the line.

STEVE ARCHIBALD

(Aberdeen)

looks at HIBS



That gave us a 1-0 lead, but all credit to the way this relatively young Easter Road side came battling back into the game.

Ally MacLeod had a splendid

Rangers' hopes of retaining the trophy they won last season when they beat Aberdeen 2-1.

There have never been any doubts about Callaghan's ball-playing ability. By all accounts he didn't get much of an opportunity to make a hit with Newcastle during his brief period in English soccer.

Hibs have a lot of good players in their side, including Gordon Rae, Colin Campbell, Steve Brown and Paul McGlinchey. I believe this is their first season in the top team for all four and, depending upon who plays at Hampden, they might find the atmosphere a bit overpowering.

So, who is going to win? Hibs might just sneak it, but if Rangers grab the game by the scruff of the neck right from the kick-off they could go on to claim the prize for the second successive season.

SHOOT'S Verdict on the Final

BOBBY RUSSELL strolled and strutted across Hampden last season dominating the Scottish Cup Final and demoralising Aberdeen.

The young Rangers midfielder had an afternoon to remember and, not surprisingly, he picked up the Man-of-the-Match award as his side won the Cup.

Hibs know that an action replay from Russell could spell disaster for them and there is little doubt that Eddie Turnbull's team will allow will o'the wisp Russell the time and space afforded to him by an alarmingly slack Aberdeen side.

If the Edinburgh men can put a clamp on Russell and dim his undoubted genius, preventing him from spreading the ball around in the manner he does so superbly and immaculately then SHOOT believe firmly that the Cup will have green-and-white ribbons on

it come 4.40pm.

Hibs are a bit of an unknown quantity. They have had some crazy results this season — like a 3-0 drubbing from Morton in a League match last month — but if they refuse to make the same mistakes as Aberdeen last season they could be on their way to only their third Scottish Cup victory in their 104-year history.

Jackie McNamara, the former Celtic player has now settled in as sweeper and is undoubtedly one of the best in the country.

Russell will find it difficult to find space around the penalty-box with a player of the calibre and calming influence of McNamara patrolling his beat. If Russell is continually frustrated and Alex MacDonald is bottled up, too, Rangers might just toil.

And that would give Ally MacLeod the chance to colour Hamp-

den with his dazzling skills.

The Ibrox men must know all about the enigmatic genius of MacLeod by now. He once scored FOUR goals in Glasgow for St. Mirren in a League Cup match against Rangers.

Rangers, too, will have to combat the running power of Gordon Rae and Colin Campbell.

The Ibrox men, however, undoubtedly have the edge on big-time experience but it is highly unlikely that Hibs will burn themselves out. In fact, the longer the game goes on, the more their confidence will grow.

Aberdeen didn't heed the warning signals in their Semi-Final tie against Hibs. The Edinburgh men had put them under pressure in a League match at Pittodrie only days before the Hampden encounter, but The Dons still thought they had the firepower to

win the vital match. It didn't turn out that way!

Stevie Archibald gave Aberdeen the lead when goalkeeper Jim McArthur fumbled a shot from Ian Scanlon, but Gordon Rae knocked in the equaliser before Ally MacLeod got what proved to be the eventual winner with a raging penalty-kick into the roof of the net.

Hibs are the undoubted underdogs, but that won't bother them. They will set out to make things difficult for Rangers.

If Hibs can settle down in the midfield and keep buzzing, Rangers could be on the receiving end of a shock. Of course, Bobby Russell may think otherwise!

We're going for Hibs, though, at the end of the day. There could be only one goal in it, and the game could be undecided until almost the last kick of the ball.

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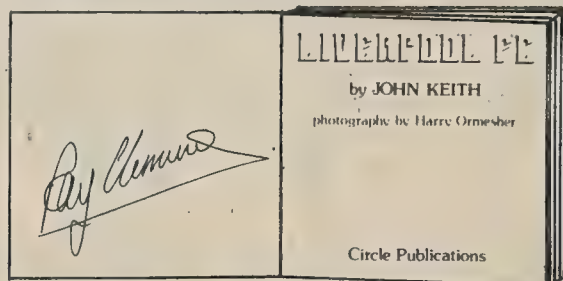
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SHOOT 14

FOOTBALL FUNNIES

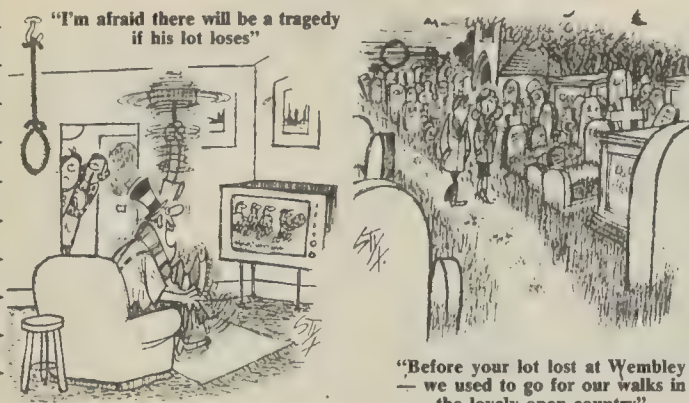


This week former Northampton team-mates Phil Neal (left, now Liverpool) and John Gregory (Aston Villa) combine to select these Cup Final jokes specially drawn by our ace cartoonist Styx.

"Fantastic dream — Cup-winners medal — made captain of England — knighted by the Queen — and finishing up playing for Slag Heap Rovers reserves"



"After ten years loyal service — the boss just sold me for a Cup Final ticket"



"Before your lot lost at Wembley — we used to go for our walks in the lovely open country"



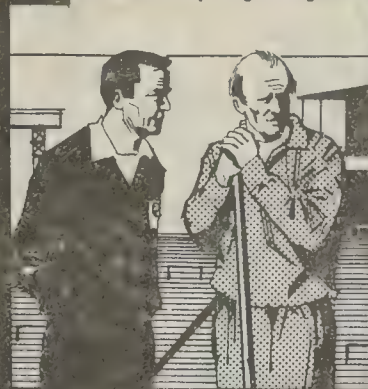
"Never known the old Wembley turf to be this springy, Joe"



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1 A groundsman asks the referee if he may mark lines on the pitch with creosote. Are you right to agree?



3 A player's boot flies off when he is about to kick the ball. Should you (a) order him off to replace it, (b) stop play or (c) allow him to replace it while play proceeds?



2 When taking a throw-in a player lifts one foot off the ground. Should you (a) take no action, (b) award a throw-in to the opposite side or (c) allow the throw-in to be taken again?



4 A player with the ball deliberately turns his back on an opponent when he is about to be tackled, and the opponent charges him fairly from behind. Should you award (a) a free-kick against the opponent, or (b) take no action?



5 A defender in his own penalty-area attempts to kick an opponent but does not make contact. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick, (b) take no action or (c) award a penalty-kick?



ANSWERS

1. No. We have just had the case of a Welsh rugby star playing in a match where some burning substance was used to mark the field. Unfortunately it went on to the player's body and the player had to be treated for burns. 2. Award a throw-in to the opposing side (b). 3. Allow him to replace it while play proceeds (c). 4. Take no action (b). 5. Award a penalty-kick (c).

These four goalies talk about

'Must be fit to survive' — **DAI DAVIES (Wrexham)**

MY approach to any game is to make sure I am as fit as possible when match day comes along. I prepare for this in training sessions which keep me in top physical shape.

A goalkeeper's reflexes must be kept razor-sharp, and the whole quality of his game depends on this. Which is why the bad spell of weather we experienced after Christmas made this period the worst in my career with regard to putting in suitable training sessions. For a goalkeeper, training on tarmac as a substitute for grass isn't practical, and can be rough on the knees, so the unavailability of our usual training pitch last February was frustrating to me.

During a game, I prefer not to wear gloves for handling the ball whenever possible, though leather does act as a protection. But I do wear a peaked fisherman's cap which was given to me by a friend.

Discussing the opposition before a match, it's important to me to know the style of the other team. For example, if I'm playing for Wales, against West Germany, I am aware the Germans like to hit balls over the top of defences, so I make plans to deal with situations that could arise from the tactic.

If an opposing forward has broken through, it is better to go out and challenge him than to stay close to your goal. The nearer he gets to goal, the easier for him to score.

When a team is awarded a penalty-kick against Wrexham, a pre-match briefing will usually

indicate whether the man taking it prefers to shoot left or right. So I prepare for this, although he could change his mind. The important thing to remember is the pressure is on the player who takes the spot kick. The opportunity is there for him to score, the onus is on him, and if he scores with a well-placed shot the 'keeper can't be blamed for failing to stop it. Some players take a straight run at the ball, which means it could be hit to either side of me, others take a looping run at the ball, to try to kid me about where they mean to put it.

About free-kicks. In the last season or so, teams have become more inventive about methods of taking them, they are more sophisticated. I'm in charge of directing the sort of defensive wall we'll put up, and I usually arrange to have one half of the goal covered by our defenders, with myself taking care of the other half. Corner-kicks are often hit to the near post, and I like a man there to guard it. And for crosses into the six-yard area, defences must be organised to cut out the danger of colliding with a colleague, but a 'keeper must be prepared to come out to help his defence when necessary.

Summing up, I believe in being involved as much as possible in the tactics we will adopt in a particular game. If pre-match talks have shown we can expect danger from the opposing wingers, my work will be linked with that of our back-four to try to make certain we deal with this together.

'I'm not revealing my tricks' — **JOE CORRIGAN (Man. City)**

I BELIEVE in going to bed early on the evening before a game, between nine-thirty and ten o'clock — then it's a slice of toast and cup of tea for breakfast at nine the next morning, followed by a training session.

During training, I notice the state of the pitch, and if it is wet I decide I will wear gloves to improve my handling. But I prefer not to use them, and also, never wear a cap.

Our tactics are decided before the match. The type of wall we'll put up for free-kicks is discussed, and in the actual game it is left to me to see that the end man in the wall is properly positioned. For corner-kicks, the near post is always vulnerable, and if the kick is placed there, I know I'll have to make a determined effort to get through a mass of bodies to reach the ball.

In taking penalty-kicks, players today are more subtle than they used to be. Previously, a spot-kick was simply driven powerfully at goal, with the player relying on the pace of the ball to beat the 'keeper. The modern spot-kick taker is different. He may attempt a strong shot, or instead try to make the goalkeeper guess wrongly about which part of the goal is being

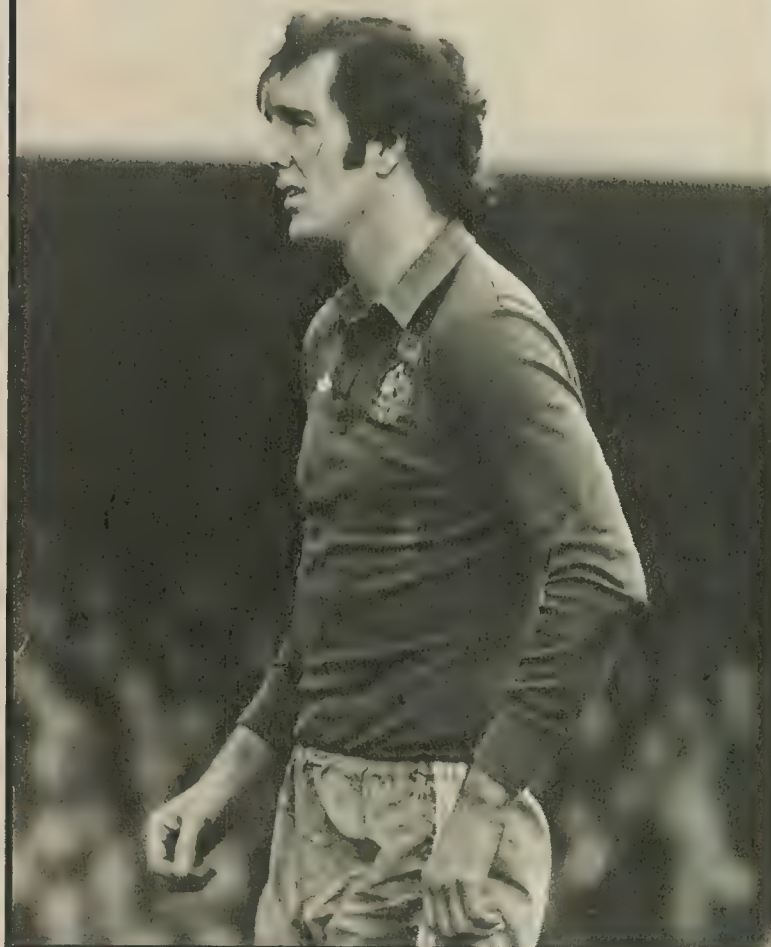
aimed at.

For my part, there are certain tricks I can use to help me save the shot, but I don't intend to give them away in print! Let's just say I've my own ideas on how best to shape up to a penalty-kick.

For certain games, you can expect to be in action much more than some others. Liverpool, for example, are a side that make the opposing goalkeeper work for his money, and I'm prepared for it. And I find, as do other 'keepers, that through being constantly involved, it's usually possible to have a good match against Liverpool.

This is why a visiting goalkeeper will receive an ovation from the Anfield crowd at the end of 90 minutes — through being in action constantly, a 'keeper's reflexes are kept at full stretch and he does well. But in games in which I'm inactive for long spells, I walk around the penalty-area and concentrate on what is going on at the other end.

Lastly, I believe in not worrying about the opposition, but prefer to think about my own game. Confidence is essential for a 'keeper, and he must be in complete charge in the six-yard area.



KEEPING AT THE TOP

'I study penalty experts' — **JOHN SHAW (Bristol City)**

PHYSICAL and mental fitness are vitally important to a goalkeeper in his approach to a match, and ground conditions have also to be taken into consideration.

If the pitch is soggy, I wear long studs on my boots, use medium studs if the ground is not too wet, and favour the short variety if it is dry — the right sort of grip is essential on any type of surface.

Then there is the matter of gloves or head-gear. Personally, I don't favour wearing anything on my hands, or my head, regardless of conditions. The Continentals, on the other hand, always wear gloves, and when City were touring Sweden, I accepted a pair to try out in England. I found they were all right in dry conditions, but useless in wet. Later, I was told the Swedes have gloves for use in any sort of weather.

In this country, some goalkeepers wear gloves where there is a business arrangement with a firm, but I don't know if they would wear them for preference.

Regarding playing, I've certain rules I adhere to, particularly in dead-ball situations. As an example, for corner-kicks, which are usually inswingers these days, I like a defender positioned at each post. Also, a man on the six-yard line on which the flag-kick is being taken.

For free-kicks, I put up a wall which I think will deal best with the different types of free-kicks,

and usually won't change it. I reckon that even if the opposition is attempting to work tricky free-kicks, changing the wall won't help.

Concerning penalty-kicks, I learn everything I can about the opposing spot-kick taker, including which side of me he is liable to aim at. After that, it all depends on how he takes the kick.

The question of when to come out is vital to any 'keeper, and in my case, I'm helped by having a tall defender in front of me, Dave Rodgers. If we are up against a centre-forward like Bob Latchford, who is good in the air, I count on Dave marking him closely for the high balls. But circumstances can vary, and if necessary, I'll come 12 yards out of goal to collect a cross.

In the situation where an opposing player has burst through on his own, I'm careful not to commit myself too early. For example, if he is about 30 yards out and I move forward too quickly to meet him, he can chip the ball over my head. But if I can get him to one side or other of the penalty-area, that suits me. This is better. Ideally, of course, I try to hold him off long enough for one of our defenders to get back and tackle him.

In training, I like to practice dealing with every sort of problem likely to affect a goalkeeper. Then I feel I've worked at my preparation and am in the right frame of mind for the game.

'I try to out-fox strikers' — **BARRY SIDDALL (Sunderland)**

ON the night before a game, I don't vary my routine or go to bed early. On Saturday morning, I relax at home before going along to the ground to watch the television pre-match soccer programmes, then make my way to the dressing room.

Unless it's wet, I prefer not to wear gloves, and although rubber boots are worn on icy surfaces my usual choice is for leather boots, even if the studs are small. They give a good grip, and are also better for kicking the ball.

I like playing in normal daylight, but if the floodlighting is good I don't mind it. Efficient floodlights can be better than playing with the sun shining into my eyes, though on the other hand, some grounds suffer from patchy lighting at night.

In weekly training sessions, Sunderland devise schemes for dead-ball situations, then during an actual match I can make any adjustments that seem to be necessary. The most important thing for a 'keeper is to have a good sight of the ball, and sometimes six players in the wall, or even five, can restrict a goalkeeper's vision. When a man, who shoots powerfully, takes a free-kick, however, it is policy to put an

extra man in the wall.

With corner-kicks, I'm happiest when the ball is placed into the centre of the goalmouth, making it easier for me to collect. But when the flag-kick is directed to the near post, then headed on by an opponent, the angle is changed for me, and the situation can be dangerous.

Angles are important, too, when an opposing forward breaks clear and I have to advance to meet him. I approach this sort of situation by trying to get him to do what I want him to do, attempting to give the maximum cover to my goal. I prefer him to take me on, try to dribble past me, which gives me the chance to smother the ball at his feet. By then, there is usually a defender on the scene to help out.

With a penalty-kick, a 'keeper is on a hiding to nothing. My preparation for this consists of watching penalty-kick takers in action, generally on television, and making myself familiar with their various techniques. Then everything depends on the day. I weigh up the situation, then make my move, or dive for the ball and hope my decision is the right one.

My approach to a game is to plan on being positive. It's the only way.



This week's Star Letter comes from Alistair Thomson of Roehampton, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

LET REAL FANS HAVE FINAL TICKETS

WILL the allocation of F.A. Cup Final tickets ever be altered? When the two Finalists are given only 25,000 each, something must be wrong.

Surely supporters are the life-blood of any club and deserve to be rewarded for their efforts through the season. I have missed only two tokens from the Arsenal programme, which meant I could not purchase a ground ticket for Wembley.

The Cup Final is all about atmosphere and crowd participation, but when half of the attendance have no particular favourite to cheer this is lessened.

Non-supporters can surely be satisfied from a wonderful view of the match on TV. Instead, they deprive true fans (who have encouraged their club every inch of the way) from their just reward.

Nobody deserves a Wembley ticket more than the real supporter and I also feel sorry for the many Manchester United followers who are also unable to be at Wembley.

● It appears only the Football Association feel the present system of allocation of tickets is correct. Non-League clubs and local associations are very important to football, but I've yet to meet a representative from one of the smaller clubs who genuinely

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believes he should have a ticket instead of someone who supports either of the Finalists. The League Cup Final has more atmosphere ... because more supporters of either side are present.



Harsh Decision

AFTER watching Derby County against Arsenal on TV I was a little upset at the sending-off of Willie Young. The Arsenal defender was shown the red card for constant fouling, but both fouls

were, in my opinion, more as a result of the forward's speed rather than bad intention.

I play in the same position for my school team and like other defenders find tricky forwards a problem. You can tackle them and if the tackle is just a fraction late (unintentionally) it can seem bad.

Referee Kevin McNally was too harsh on Willie.

N. SMART,
LEICESTER.

● What television didn't show you were the other fouls committed by Willie (left) for which he was spoken to by the ref. Fortunately, Willie did not accumulate enough penalty points to rule him out of selection for the F.A. Cup Final.

King Cyrille

WEST Brom's Cyrille Regis is certainly a king — twice over! Apart from his goalscoring feats, his name shows a "royal" origin. Cyrille comes from the Greek word for a ruler, while Regis is from the Latin for a king.

JAMES ATKINS,
KIRKBY LONSDALE.

● I don't know about Cyrille being a king, but he certainly rules penalty-boxes.

Pen-Pal

I AM a 16-year-old girl from Sweden and would like to have some pen-pals. My favourite team is West Brom.

KRISTINA GUSTAVSSON,
MARIEBERG SVAGEN 47,
61100 NYKOPING,
SWEDEN.

Bad Luck

LOOKING back at the previous winners of the P.F.A. Young Player of the Year award, I was surprised to find them having such bad luck since.

1974 ... Kevin Beattie — plagued by injury

1975 ... Mervyn Day — lost his form and his West Ham first team spot

1976 ... Peter Barnes — inconsistent and now transfer-listed by Manchester City

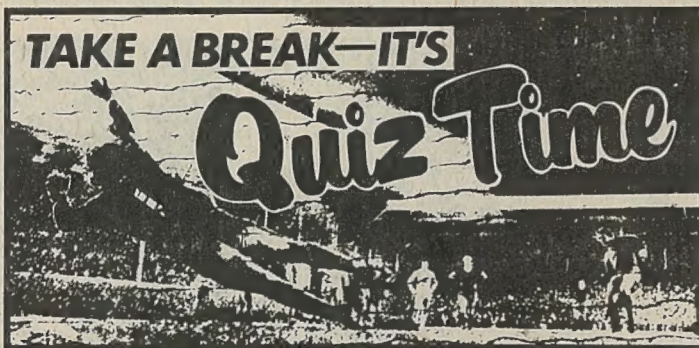
1977 ... Andy Gray — two seasons of injury problems

1978 ... Tony Woodcock — poor scoring record for Forest since

I'll be keeping a close eye on Cyrille Regis next season.

JOHN WADDINGTON,
SOUTHPORT.

● It's also interesting to see how scorers of F.A. Cup Final winners have faded — Roger Osborne, Bobby Stokes and Ian Porterfield, for instance. They, too, have had bad breaks since their moments of glory.



F.A. CUP

1. If Brian Talbot should help Arsenal beat Manchester United on Saturday, what record will he set?

2. Can you remember which clubs knocked the following out of this season's Cup. (a) Everton, (b) West Ham, (c) Ipswich and (d) Brighton?

3. True or false? Swansea City became the first club from Wales to capture the Cup when they beat Arsenal 1-0 in 1927.

4. Who scored Manchester United's winning goal in their 2-1 victory against Liverpool in the 1977 Final?

5. Which club has won the trophy the most times?

6. Derby County manager Tommy Docherty appeared in a Cup Final at Wembley. Was he playing for Swindon Town, Preston North End or Huddersfield Town against



West Brom, Walsall or Wolves in 1952-53, 1953-54 or 1954-55?

7. Four times since 1970-71 clubs have reached successive Finals.

Saturday's opponents have done it three times between them (Arsenal in 1970-71, 71-72 and 1977-78, 78-79 and United in 1975-76, 76-77) ... can you name the other club to have achieved this?

8. What F.A. Cup record does Bournemouth striker Ted MacDougall hold?

9. Which of the following clubs has never won the Cup — Bristol City, Notts County or Portsmouth?

10. Did David Peach (left) help Southampton to cause an upset when they beat Manchester United 1-0 at Wembley in 1976?

ANSWERS:

1. Talbot will be the first player to gain winners' medals in two consecutive F.A. Cup Finals with two different clubs. 2. (a) Sunderland, (b) Newport County, (c) Liverpool and (d) Wolves. 3. False — Cardiff not Swansea, won the Cup. 4. Jimmy Greenhoff. 5. Aston Villa. 6. Fred Astaire. 7. MacDougall scored a record nine goals in a tie against Manchester United. 8. MacDougall scored 4 goals in 1953-54. 9. Preston against West Brom in 1953-54. 10. False — Cardiff not Swansea, won the Cup. 11. Partick Thistle and Aberdeen. 12. 1958. 13. Cap. 14. Eddie Turnbull. 15. No. Celtic have won more times.

SCOTTISH CUP

11. Can you name the two losing Semi-Finalists in this term's competition?

12. This will be Hibernian's first appearance in the Final since 1948, 1958 or 1968 when they lost 1-0 to Clyde?



13. Was John Greig (above) manager or captain of Rangers when they beat Aberdeen 2-1 in last season's Final?

14. Who is manager of Hibernian?

15. Is it true that Rangers have won the trophy more times than their rivals Celtic?

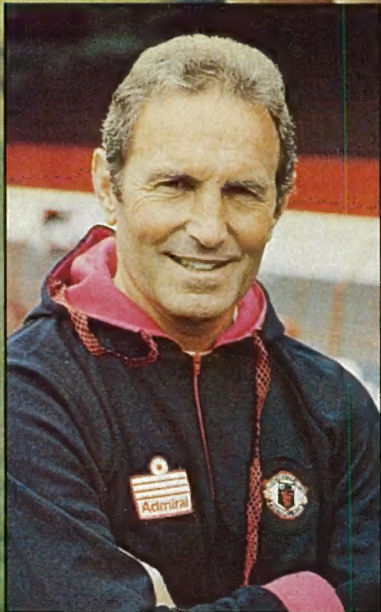
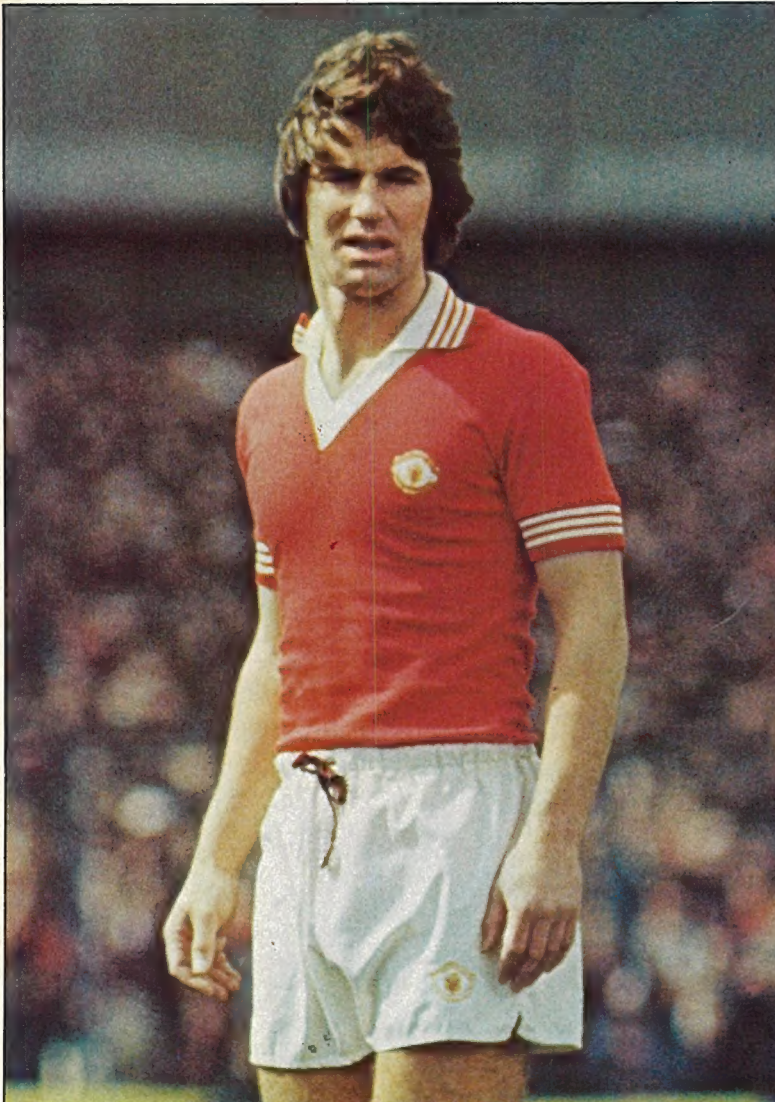
GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Partick. (4) Cap. (7) Page. (8) Irving. (11) Open. (12) Lies. (13) East. (15) Nottingham. (17) Late. (19) Aspen. (22) Sinew. (25) Lee. (27) Do. (28) Rat. (30) Ewood. (32) Recoup. (33) Nail. (34) He. (35) Paste. DOWN:— (1) Phil Neal. (2) Thistle. (3) Cogent. (4) Captain. (5) Aged. (6) Pens. (7) Posh. (9) Rio. (10) Vet. (14) Ages. (16) Ian. (18) Two. (20) Sere. (21) Peach. (23) Irons. (24) Eddie. (26) Sepp. (29) Toe. (31) Oat.

Jumbled Name: KEVIN DILLON

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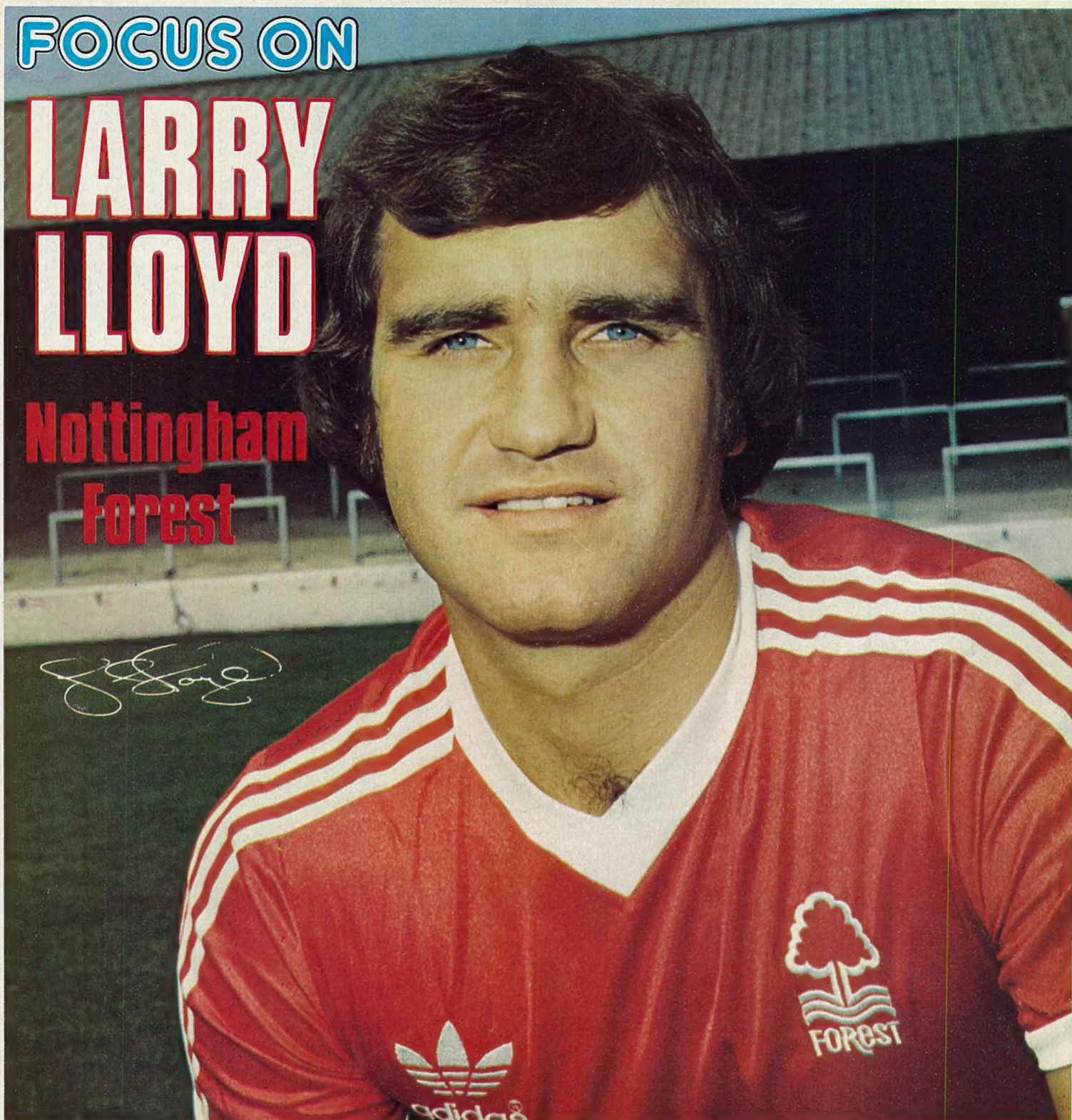
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LARRY LLOYD

Nottingham
Forest



FULL NAME: Laurence Lloyd
BIRTHPLACE: Bristol
BIRTHDATE: 6th October, 1948
HEIGHT: 6ft 2ins
WEIGHT: 14st
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Bristol Rovers, Liverpool and Coventry
MARRIED: To Sue
CHILDREN: Yolanda, aged 8, and Damian, aged 6
CAR: Toyota Celica 2000 ST
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Kevin Keegan
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Bristol Rovers
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Too many to list
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Both legs of this season's First Round European Cup-tie against Liverpool
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning two League

Championship medals, first with Liverpool, then with Forest
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Arsenal in the 1971 F.A. Cup Final
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: West Germany
FAVOURITE FOOD: Spaghetti Bolognese and Whitebait
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Punctuality and honesty
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Losing and inconsistent referees
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: The Rockford Files and The Good Life
FAVOURITE SINGERS: The Bee Gees and The Boomtown Rats
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESS: John Wayne, James Garner and Susannah York
BEST FRIEND: Pat Millett, my butcher

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Bill Dodgin and Bobby Campbell at Bristol Rovers and Fred Ford
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Postponed matches because of bad weather and travelling home from away games
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Four Youth, eight Under-23 and three full caps for England
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be financially secure
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play for as long as possible and to be successful in management
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? I haven't a clue
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Singer Olivia Newton-John

SHOOT!